GINGA-LEGEND

WEED

3

BRIEF SUMMARY OF VOL. #2

HOPING TO FIND HIS FATHER, WEED WENT TO OHU WITH HIS FRIEND GB, BUT THEY ENDED UP INVOLVED IN A POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN KAGETORA AND KEN--TWO MEMBERS OF THE OHU "UTOPIA".

WEED MANAGED TO FIND NEWS ABOUT HIS FATHER AND WENT TO TUTAGO PASS, A LIVING QUARTER FOR THE TOP RANKING DOGS. HOWEVER, WEED'S FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH HIS FATHER WAS BROUGHT TO A TRAGIC END...
IN FRONT OF WEED'S EYES--HIS FATHER WAS SHOT AND KILLED BY A HUMAN!!

HE WAS DEEPLY SHOCKED, BUT DECIDED TO GO TO GAJYO WITH KEN TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH. AND WHAT THEY FOUND OUT IN GAJYO WAS...

WEED 3

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*THIS PUBLICATION IS FICTIONAL.

THIS STORY WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE WEEKLY COMIC GORAKU, DECEMBER 1999 - FEBRUARY 2000

THE 1ST STORY
TRUE WEAPON

ARF!
ARF!
TOCHIGI PREFEC-TURE

ARF!
DRAG
DRAG
ARF!
DRAG
DRAG

ARF!
ARF!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

OH, THEY'RE THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS...
THEY MUST BE CATCHING THOSE STRAY DOGS...

UHGGGHHH
WHIIINE

ARF!
GRRRRR ...!!!

ARE YOU TRYING TO BITE ME?! YOU FEISTY LITTLE MUTT!

ZOOOM!

WOOOWWWLLL

HUH?

!!

WHAM!

CRASH

AIGH!

RUN, KID!

HURRY! THIS WAY!!

DASH

WOW!

THE BIG ONE SAVED THE PUP!

WE'RE SAFE NOW.

YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL, KID...THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR BEING OUT ON THE MAIN STREETS IN PLAIN SIGHT!

Parking Lots

STAY OFF THE MAIN ROADS FROM NOW ON, OK?

BYE, KID. BE GOOD.

THANKS, MISTER!

UMM.. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HEY, KID... WHEN YOU ASK SOMEONE HIS NAME, YOU SHOULD ALWAYS SAY YOUR NAME FIRST.

KIDS TODAY... THEY'VE GOT NO MANNERS AT ALL.

SORRY... MY NAME IS MEL.

SIR, PLEASE TELL ME YOUR NAME.

...GOOD, GOOD. THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT. NOW I'LL TELL YOU MINE.

MY NAME'S SMITH... SMITH THE VAGABOND, HEH, HEH.

...SMITH AND YOU'RE A VAGABOND?

DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE A TRAVELER? WHERE ARE YOU GOING NOW?

I'VE BEEN WANDERING AROUND, TRYING TO FIND...

I THINK I'M HEADING TOWARDS OHU.

GAJYO

WHO THE HELL'RE YOU!?

AND WHAT'RE YOU DOING THERE?!

THE SIGHT WAS SHOCKING... WEED WAS SPEECHLESS WITH TERROR.

HEY, WEED! IS SOMEONE INSIDE?

JUST DO AS THE TOP SAID!

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

I'M GOING

DASH

KAGETOR HOLD IT

BA DUMP

BA DUMP

THAT MUST BE...

A HUMAN ...

BA DUMP

HE'S EATING A CORPSE ...

BA DUMP

THERE WAS A DOG IN GAJYO WITH UNPRECEDENTED POWER...

A DOG THAT BORE THE NAME "DEADLY WEAPON."

THE UTOPIA IN OHU WAS DESTROYED BY A SINGLE CANINE-- AND HE WAS THE AUTHOR OF EVIL ITSELF.

SLURP

WAA!
DAMN!
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
!!
TUMBLE
TUMBLE

OUCH!
HEY WEED, WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?
WHA...?!
HUH?!

TO THOSE DOGS, GAJYO WAS A HOLY GROUND AND LOW-LEVEL SOLDIERS WEREN'T EVEN PERMITTED TO GO *NEAR* THERE.
CRUNCH
BUT RIGHT THERE, AT THE HOLY GROUND, A MONSTER DOG WAS DEVOURING A CORPSE WITH A RAPT EXPRESSION ON ITS FACE.
GLUMP
GLUMP

IT HAD NO RESERVE. IT GOBBLED THE CORPSE SEDULOUSLY, RELISHING EACH BITE.

ITS APPETITE WAS LIKE A STARVED HYENA AND IT TOTALLY IGNORED WEED AND HIS PALS...

GLUMP GLOMP

EVEN KAGETORA AND KEN...

SMACK SMACK

WERE SPEECHLESS.

GB WAS SO SHOCKED, HE DIDN'T REALIZE HIS FEET HAD GOTTEN WET...

HUFF HUFF HUFF

KEN AND KAGETORA TRIED TO UNWIND THEIR RIGID BODIES,

GLOMP GLUMP

BUT THEY WERE STILL UNABLE TO CONTROL THEIR MINDS.

THEN THE MONSTER ROLLED ONTO ITS BACK...

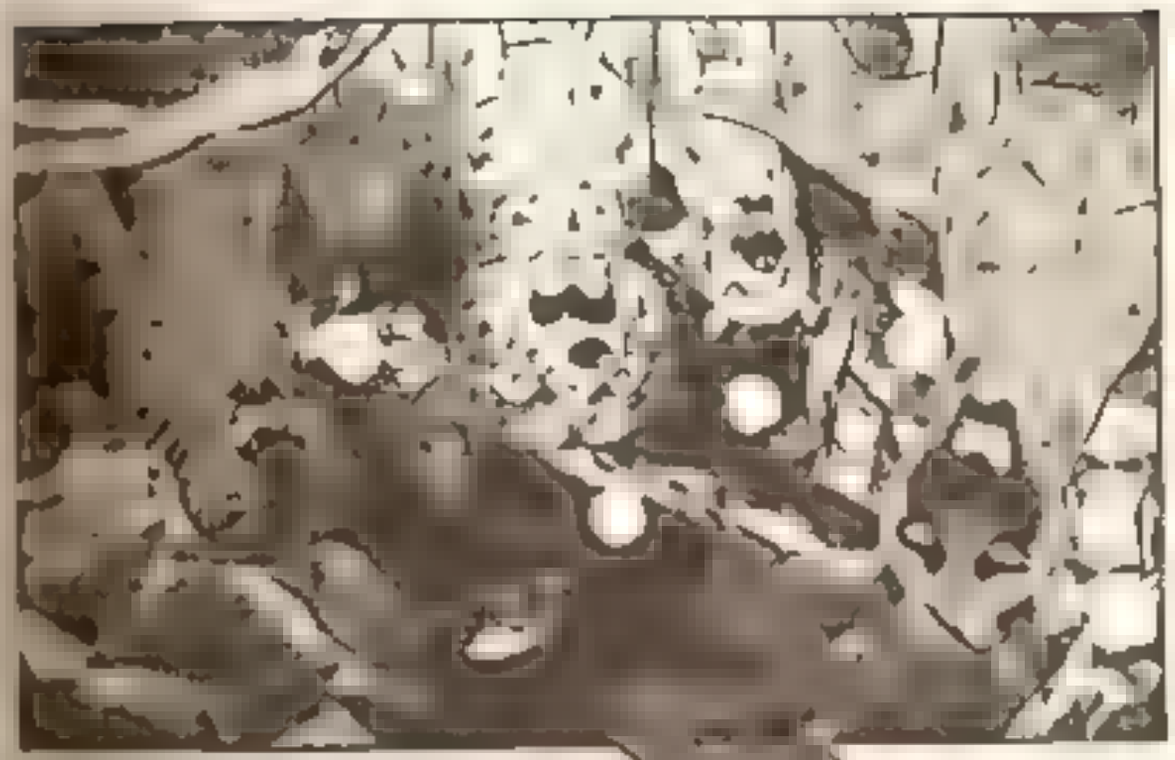
ROLL

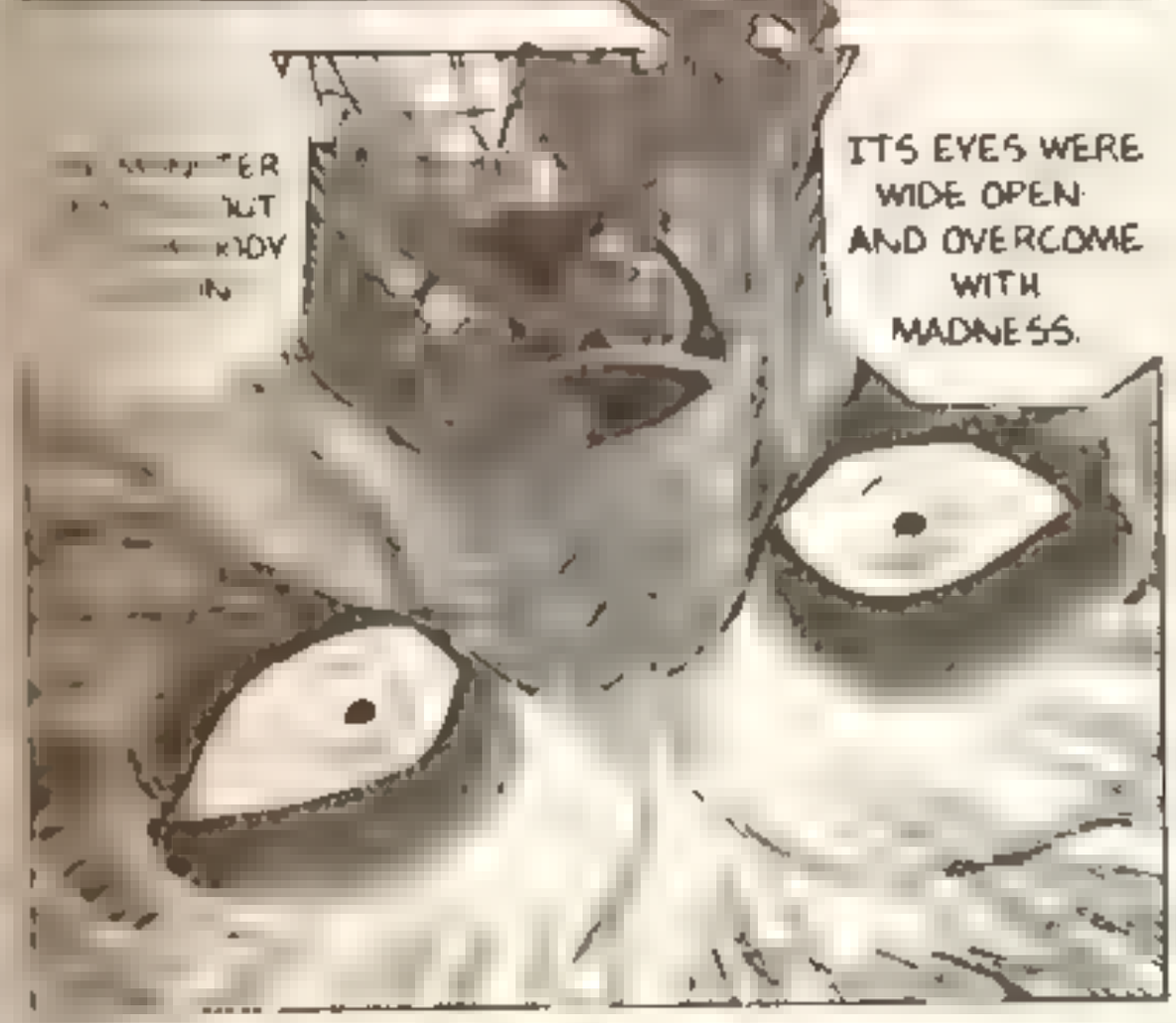
...AND RUBBED ITS BODY AGAINST THE CORPSE'S LOLLING INTERNAL ORGANS...

ROLL ROLL

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT? AND WHY IS IT HERE?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN EATING HUMANS ON OUR HOLY GROUND!!




ITS EYES WERE WIDE OPEN AND OVERCOME WITH MADNESS.

SCATTER, EVERY-BODY!

STOP GAPING!

GRR!

UHGH!

AAA!

ARGH!

SLAM!

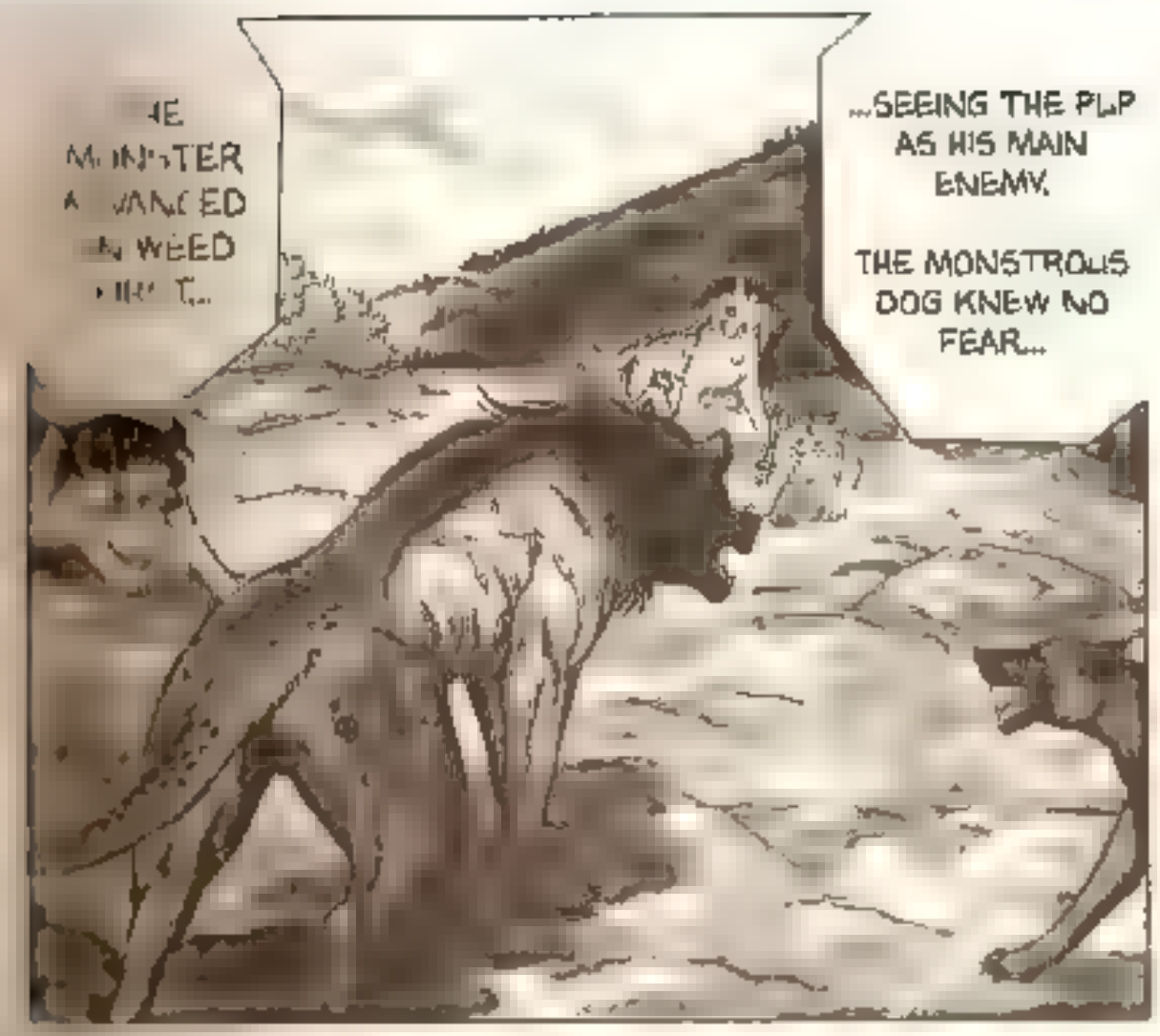
UHGH!

WIMP

ARE YOU OK, WEEDZ?!

THANKS, GB!

OHHH NO! A DEAD END!
THIS IS THE OPPOSITE SIDE!
DASH
THUD


...SEEING THE PUP AS HIS MAIN ENEMY.
THE MONSTROUS DOG KNEW NO FEAR...

KEN AND KAGETORA TRIED TO STOP IT, BUT IT KEPT GOING TOWARDS HIM...

THE 2ND STORY
AWAKENED BLOOD

TAKE THIS, YOU MONSTER!

GRRR

!!

.....

!!

!!

SHOOT !

KAGETORA! WATCH OUT!!

!!

BASH

CHOMP

I GOT YOU!

I'M

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!

UMPH!

FLOP

CHIEF!

KAGETORA!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?! LET ME GO!!

I DON'T WANT ANY HELP FROM AN IDIOT LIKE YOU!

TUMBLE ROLL TUMBLE ROLL

I GOT YOUR BACK!

AND I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU GO TO HELL BY YOURSELF!

KEN...

...GROWING UP, THEY WERE BEST ...NDS, AND THEY ... THE SONS OF ... AND KUROTORA, THE FIERCEST SOLDIERS IN OWL.

SINCE THEIR FATHERS WERE COMRADES, KEN AND KAGETORA WERE RAISED JUST LIKE REAL BROTHERS.

ALTHOUGH THEY WENT ...PARATE WAYS AND BECAME DISTANT,

THEY WERE AFTER THE SAME THING AFTER ALL.

KAGETORA UNDER-STANDS KEN'S TRUE FEELINGS...

AND KEN DISCOVERS HIS OWN SOUL AS WELL...

THEIR BODIES SLAMMED AGAINST ROCKS ALL THE WAY DOWN.

BUT KEN WAS STILL HOLDING ON TO KAGETORA.

TUMBLE TUMBLE TUMBLE

ROLL

ROLL

POW

CHIEF ...

KAGETORA

KEN...I SEE WHERE YOUR HEART IS NOW. SO PLEASE LET ME GO!

THEIR BODIES WERE TANGLED LIKE A STRING OF FINE THREADS.

SKWU

AND IRONICALLY, THE FINELY TANGLED THREADS GRADUALLY BECAME A THICK IRON CHAIN AS THEY WERE FACING DEATH.

YOOOO

NOOOOH !!! CHIEF!!!

OH NO, CHIEF JUST FELL OFF...

AROOOOOOO

PANT PANT

ARF!

HOOOWWWLL

ARF!

RRooo

HOW COULD YOU!

TAKE THIS!

YELP!

AUGH!

YELP!

SLAM!

AUGH!

WAAA!

THE FOLLOWERS OF KEN AND KAGETORA LOST ONE AFTER ANOTHER...

BUT WEED HAD NO WAY OF HELPING THEM.

HIS PHYSICAL STRENGTH WAS REACHING ITS LIMIT AND HIS SHOT GUN WOUNDS THROBBED...

ARF!
ARF!

BEFORE HE KNEW IT, ONLY WEED AND 6B WERE LEFT.

AND THERE WAS NO WAY OUT ANYMORE.

I'M SCARED! WHAT KIND OF BEAST IS THAT?

DAMN! DON'T COME NEAR ME...!

GRRRR...

WAAAA!

WAAA...

FLINCH

SLIP

OH NO...

ROLL

TUMBLE

TUMBLE

GB WAS TOTALLY PANICKED. BUT WEED STARED FEARLESSLY AT HIS ENEMY.

THE ONLY WEAPON HE HAD LEFT WAS HIS UNBREAKABLE SPIRIT

BUT WEED BEGAN TO SENSE SOMETHING FROM THE MONSTER'S AURA.

WHAT HE COULD FEEL WASN'T JUST AN INTENTION TO KILL...

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

IT SURE WAS A DOG, BUT IT'S LIFE WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER DOGS OF OKU.

OTHER DOGS HAVE RECEIVED BENEFITS FROM HUMANS BEFORE, BUT IT WAS VICTIMIZED BY HUMANS. IT HAS LIVED AS AN "OBJECT" SINCE THE DAY IT WAS BORN...

TOOM TOOM PRRRR TOOM TOOM

I'M SORRY GB...

IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF ME...

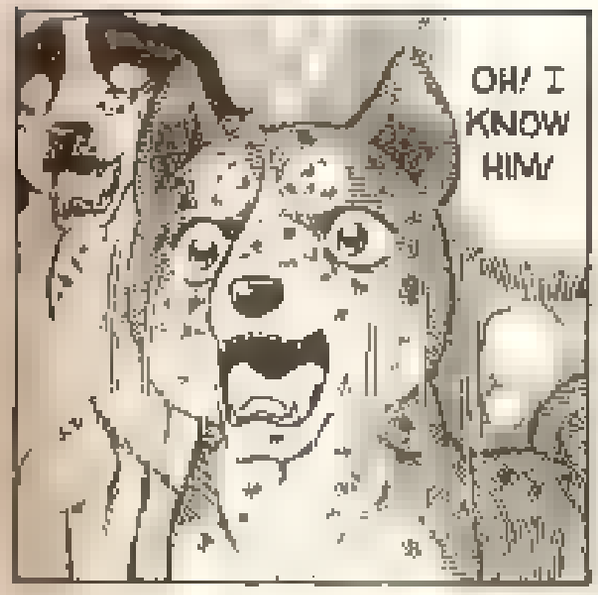
IT'S REALLY NOT A GOOD TIME FOR THAT KIND OF TALK

WEED WAS LOSING CONCEN-TRATION...

BUT, THEN...

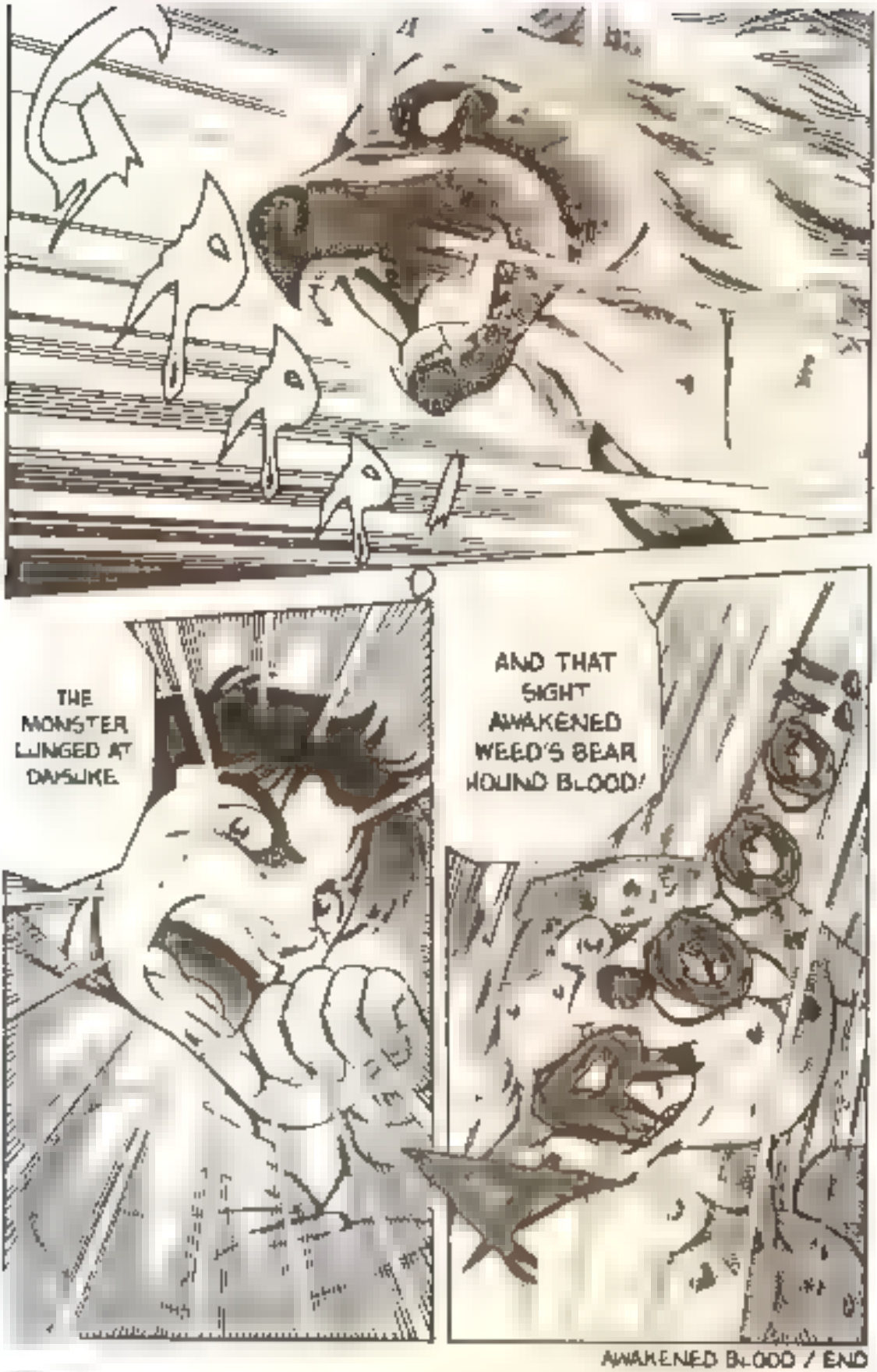
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
FLINCH!

.....
HUFF
HUFF
PANT
PANT

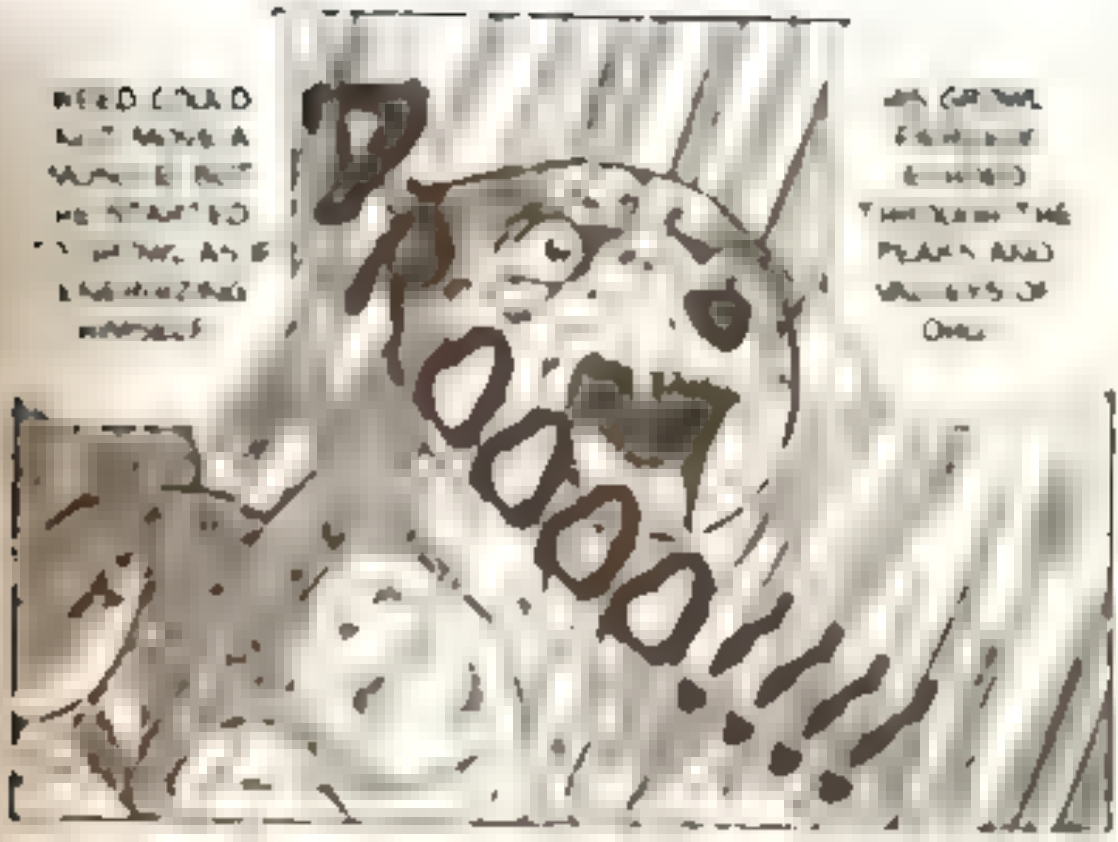

OH! I KNOW HIM!

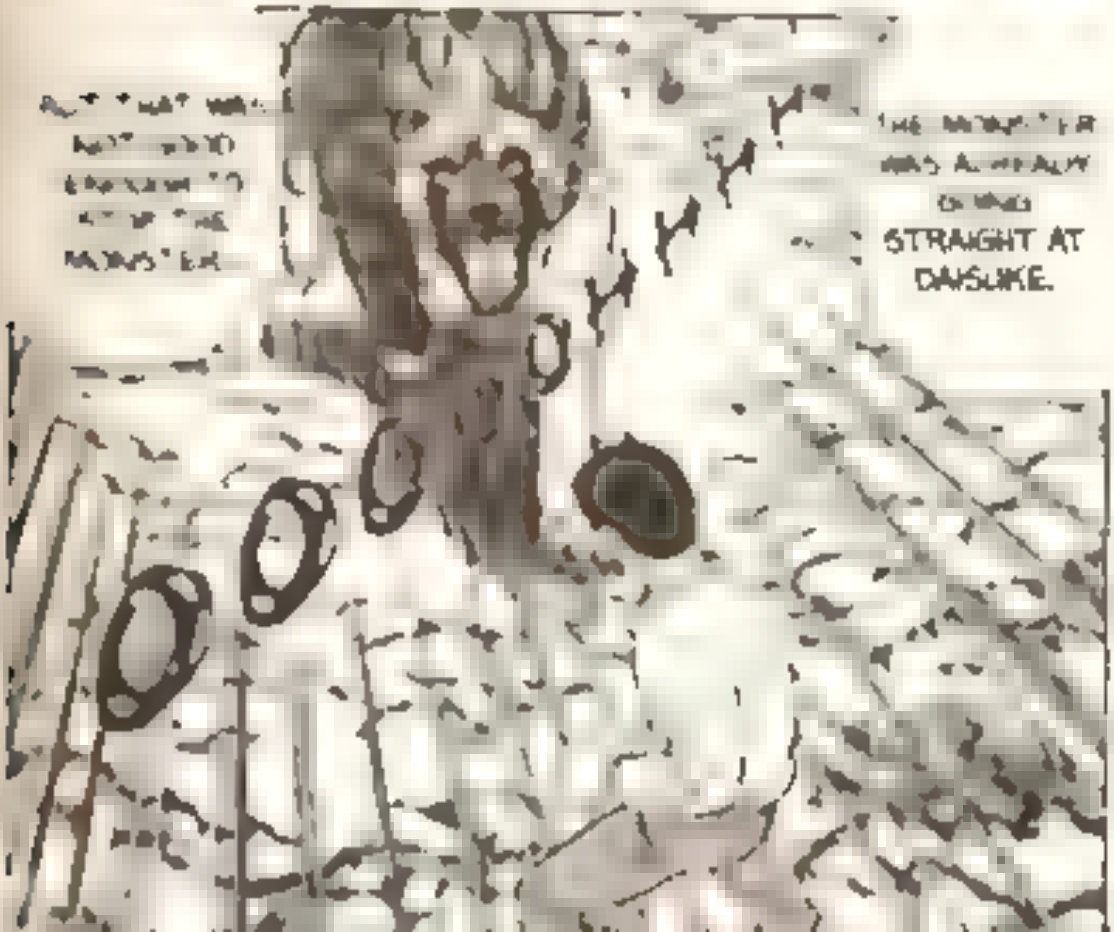
IDIOT THAT FOOL'S GONNA GET KILLED!
GO AWAY!

!!



AWAKENED BLOOD / END


ROOOOOAAA!!!


STRAIGHT AT
DAISUKE.

THE 3RD STORY
RESCUE FROM ABOVE

AAAIIIGH!

WOOSH
THAT WAS CLOSE!
THE MONSTER'S ATTACK SLICED PAST DAISUKE'S FOREHEAD.

WEED'S GROWL BROKE THE FORCE OF THE MONSTER.
IT STOPPED
AND HESITATED TO JUMP ON DAISUKE FOR THE 2ND ATTACK.
THAT PAUSE...
...SAVED DAISUKE'S LIFE.

FWUP FWUP

FWUP FWUP

A HELICOPTER SENT BY A HUMANE SOCIETY

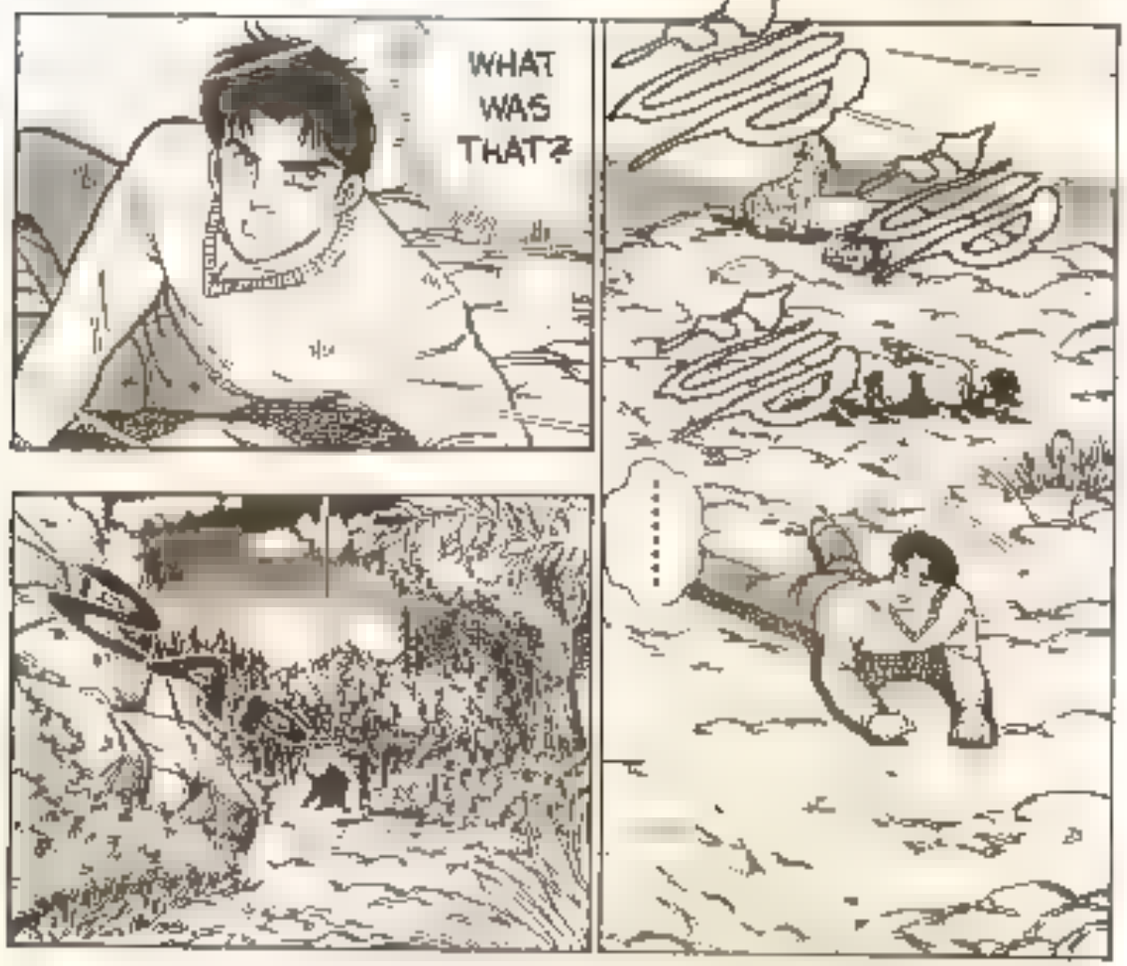
APPEARED IN THE SKY.

A RESCUE FROM ABOVE!

WUP WUP

PANT PANT PANT

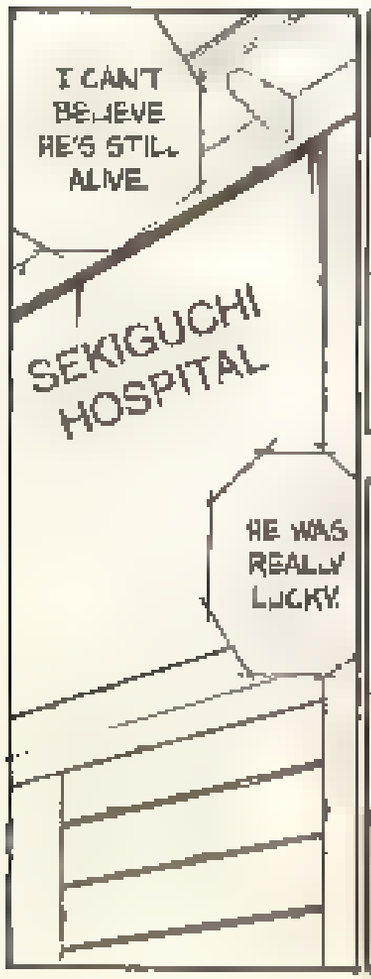
WUP


WHAT WAS THAT?
.....

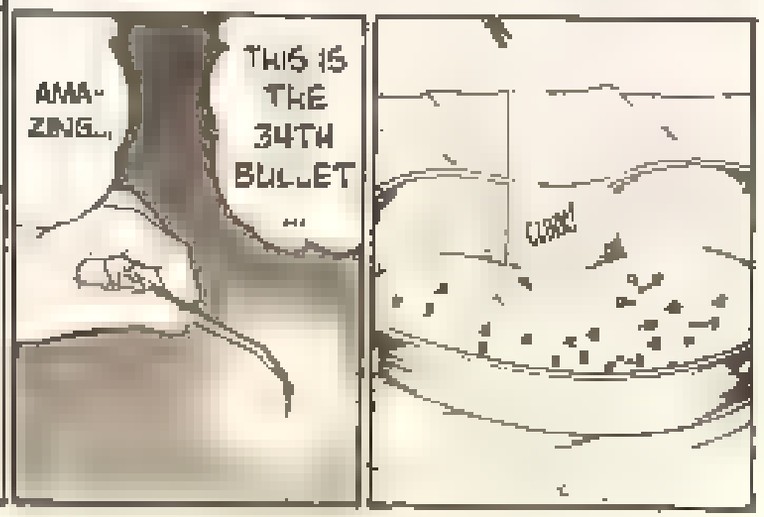
HEY, LOOK-- THERE'RE DOGS ON THE GROUND!

AND THERE'S A GUY WAVING HIS HANDS. HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ONE OF THE HUNTERS.
FWUP
FWUP

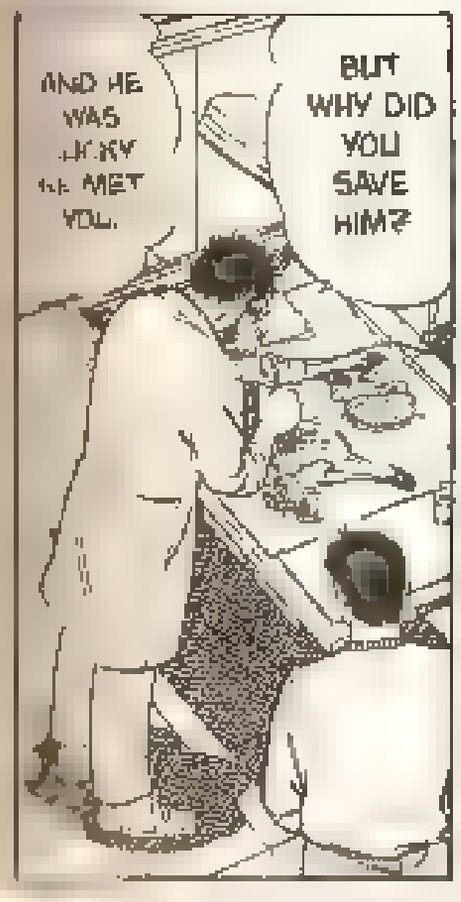
HE'S ALIVE! THE DOGS, TOO!
LET'S MAKE A LANDING THERE! HURRY!

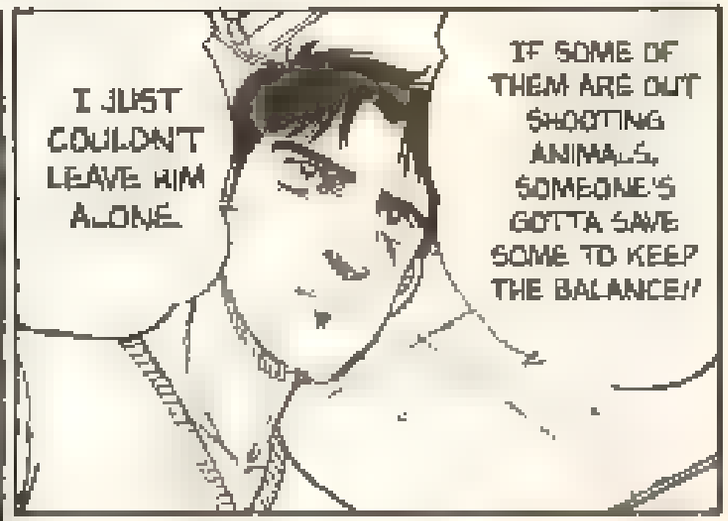

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S STILL ALIVE
SEKIGUCHI HOSPITAL
HE WAS REALLY LUCKY.

HE COULD'VE BEEN KILLED IF HE WAS SHOT AT POINT-BLANK RANGE.
THE BULLETS DIDN'T GO VERY DEEP SO HE DIDN'T LOSE MUCH BLOOD.


AMA-ZING...
THIS IS THE 34TH BULLET ...
CLINK!

LIKE YOU SAID, HE REALLY LOOKS LIKE GIN...
MAYBE HIS FATHER REALLY IS GIN.


AND HE WAS LUCKY HE MET YOU.
BUT WHY DID YOU SAVE HIM?


I JUST COULDN'T LEAVE HIM ALONE.
IF SOME OF THEM ARE OUT SHOOTING ANIMALS, SOMEONE'S GOTTA SAVE SOME TO KEEP THE BALANCE!!

SPLASH!!

SPLASH

ONCE THE DRIP'S DONE WE'LL TAKE HIM TO YOUR PLACE.

AND WE HAVE TO DO IT PRIVATELY. THIS IS NOT AN ANIMAL HOSPITAL. YOU KNOW?

THANK YOU..

BY THE WAY, I WANNA KNOW WHAT THE HUGE DOG YOU SAW IS ALL ABOUT

WE'LL NEED TO SEARCH THE MOUNTAIN AGAIN...

BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE GETS VICTIMIZED...

YES..

I'M SURE HE'LL BE FINE, BUT CALL ME IF SOMETHING HAPPENS.

I'LL BE THERE TO CHECK ON HIM.

HUH? IS HE AWAKE?

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

.....

..OOKS GOOD. HE'LL BE FINE.

SEE YOU...

HUH?!

RUUMMMMM

RUUMMMMM

RASH

OH, THAT ONE MADE IT TOO...BUT HOW DID HE KNOW WE'RE HERE?

HEY..WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO RUN AWAY?!

C'MON! I'LL TAKE YOU WITH US, TOO! COME! GET IN!

RUUMMMM

RUUMMMM

HUFF HUFF

HUFF

I'M HOME!

OH, HI, DAISUKE!

MOM... PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HIM.

WHAT?!

HE GOT SHOT AT FUTAGO PASS.

AND HE'S STILL A PUPPY.

OH MY, POOR THING...

DID HE GET SHOT ALL OVER?!

GRRRR

HEY, I THINK HE'S AWAKE.

YOU DON'T WANNA TOUCH HIM BECAUSE HE'S NOT REALLY TAMED.

.....

I GOTTA GO TO THE AIRPORT TO PICK KAZUKO UP.

DON'T LET HIM LOSE!

RIGHT. WE DON'T WANT HIS WOUNDS TO GET INFECTED.

SLAM

AND LEAVING HIM OUTSIDE ISN'T GOOD FOR HIM, EITHER.

DON'T WORRY, YOUR LITTLE BUDDY'S FINE.

HE'LL BE HEALED SOON...

YOU GUYS MUST BE REALLY GOOD FRIENDS.

YOU'RE NOT HIS FATHER, ARE YOU? YOU GUYS ARE DIFFERENT BREEDS, AND DON'T LOOK ALIKE AT ALL.

HEY... THERE YOU ARE!

HERE!

YOU MUST BE STARVING! GO AHEAD!

GOTTA GO! JUST DON'T BE OUT ON THE STREETS!

WATCH OUT FOR THE HUMANS!

RUMMM

YUMMM! HE GAVE ME SOME CHICKEN.

BUT WHAT KIND OF HUMAN IS THAT?

KUNIMI PASS

STOP PANICKING!!

DO YOU HEAR ME?!

YOUR BOSS, KAGETORA ...

WENT TO FUTAGO PASS WITH A FEW OF HIS FOLLOWERS TO FIND WEED...

AND THE NEXT MORNING, WE HEARD MULTIPLE GUN SHOTS NEAR THE PASS.

SINCE THEN, KAGETORA HASN'T BEEN BACK

AND NOBODY'S HEARD FROM HIM, EITHER...

SO WHAT'S STOPPING YOU ALL?

WORRYING WON'T GET YOU IDIOTS ANYWHERE!!

USE YOUR HEADS BEFORE YOU DIE!!

ARE YOU PUNKS TELLING ME THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN TAKE A CRAP UNLESS YOUR BOSS TELLS YOU TO?!

LET'S GO, SMITH!

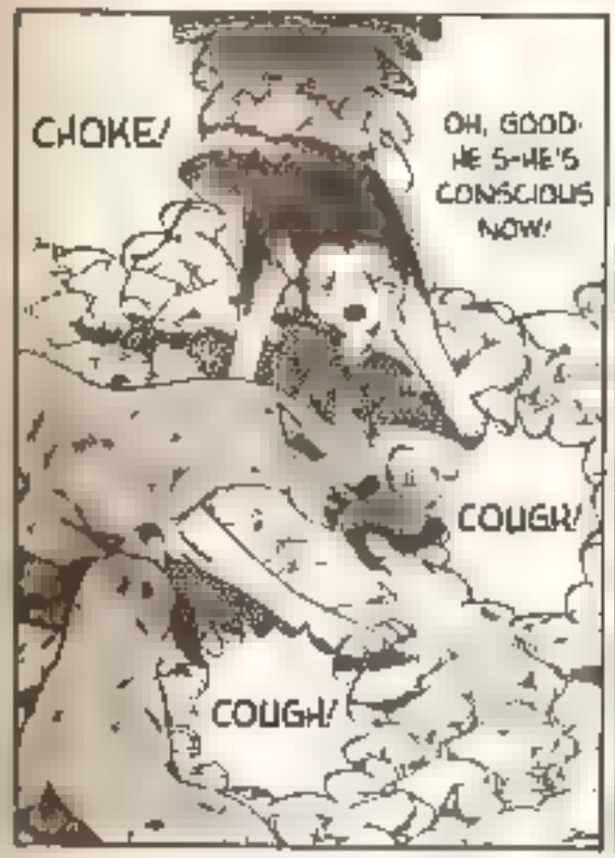
NOW I'M WORRIED ABOUT KAGETORA AND WEED!

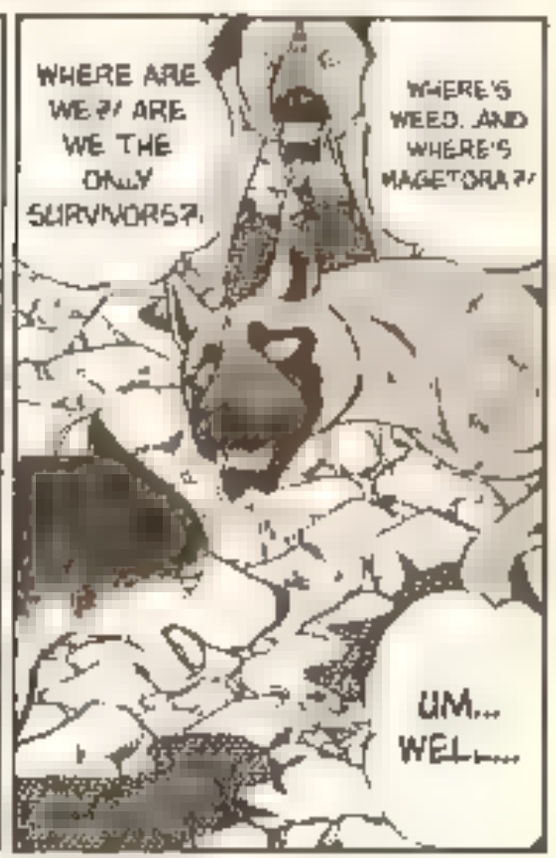
SMITH'S RIGHT! LET'S GO, EVERYONE!
AS LONG AS SMITH'S HERE, WE'LL BE ALRIGHT!
.....
FINE! FOLLOW ME YOU ROOKIES!
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO BE A REAL DOG!

MADE FROM ABOVE

CHIEF/
CHIEF/
ARE YOU OK?/

CHIEF!!
UMPH!


CHOKE/
OH, GOOD· HE S-HE'S CONSCIOUS NOW/
COUGH/
COUGH/


WHERE ARE WE?/ ARE WE THE ONLY SURVIVORS?/
WHERE'S WEED. AND WHERE'S MAGETORA?/
UM... WEL....

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I MANAGED TO SURVIVE.

HEY! ARE YOU OK?!

!?

IT WASN'T EASY TO YANK YOUR BIG BUTT UP HERE.

TOOM

YOU MUST'VE BEEN JOKING WHEN YOU SAID YOU GOT MY BACK.

YOU PASSED OUT IN FRONT OF MY EYES!

KAGETORA !!

YOU'RE ALIVE!!

GIVE ME A BREAK, I WAS REALLY WORRIED.

PANT

PANT

I KNOW... I'M SORRY.

HEY, CAN A CHIEF LIKE YOU BOW YOUR HEAD TO A REBEL LIKE ME?!

CUT IT OUT KAGETORA! I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW...

THAT GAJYO WAS TAKEN OVER BY THAT CREEPY MONSTER...

IT WIPED OUT ALL THE HEADS OF GAJYO.

AND IT'S WHAT CAUSED ALL THIS CHAOS IN THE FIRST PLACE. THE WAR BETWEEN US AND THE HUMANS.

WHO CALLED THIS PLACE "THE UTOPIA"?!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE...

I FINALLY GOT A CHANCE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS, BUT THEY ALL GOT KILLED.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO FROM NOW ON?!

I DON'T WANNA GO BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN. I DON'T WANNA SEE THE CREEPY MONSTER AGAIN.

Motoi Fujiwara

GET BETTER SOON, WEED... YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I HAVE.

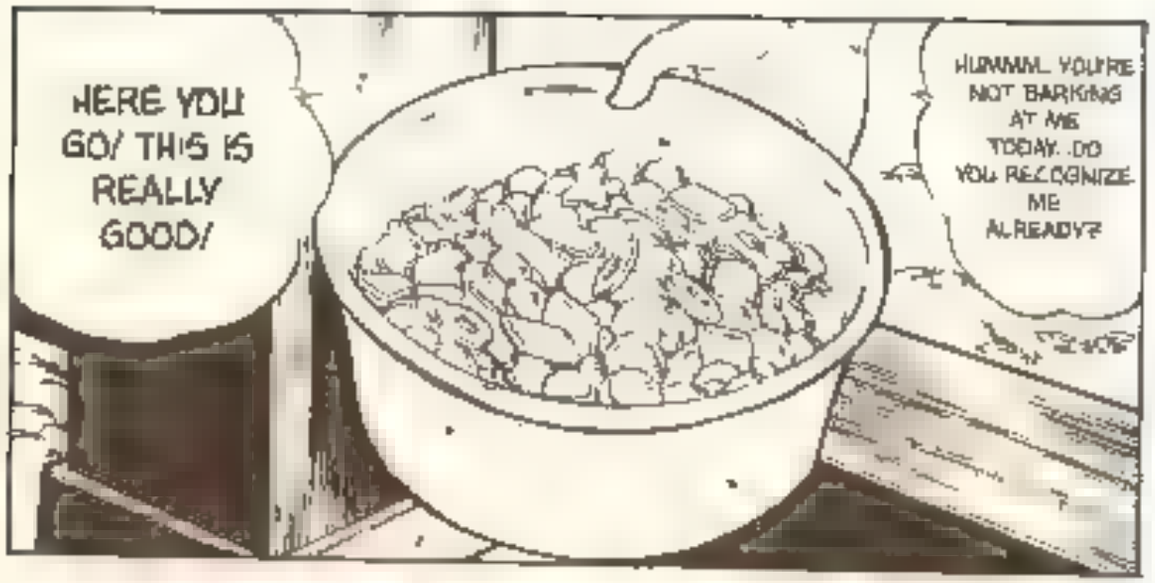
WHEN HE GETS BETTER, WE'LL GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE, AND START ALL OVER AGAIN IN THE NORTHERN ALPS.

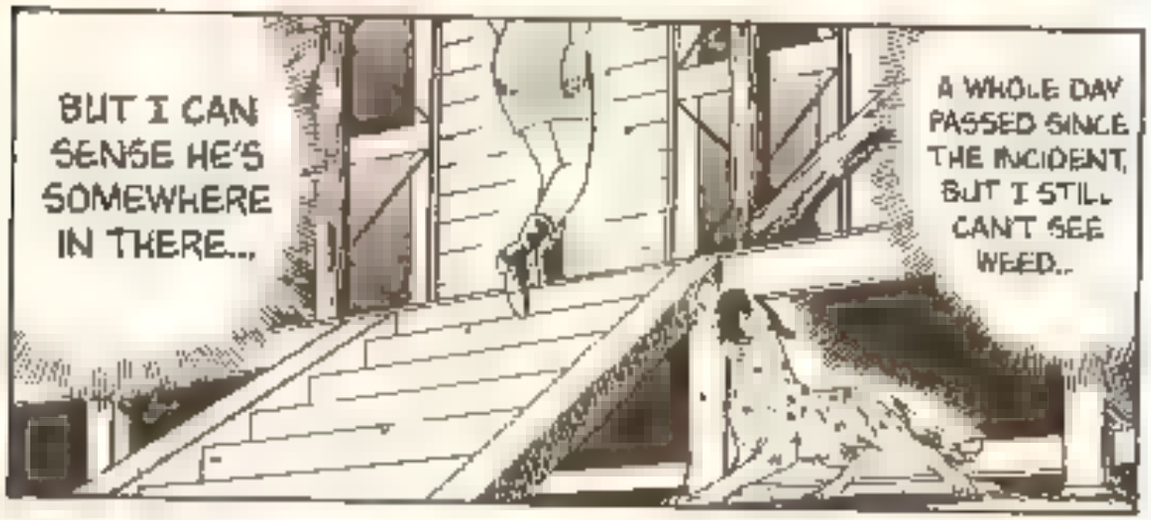
STEP

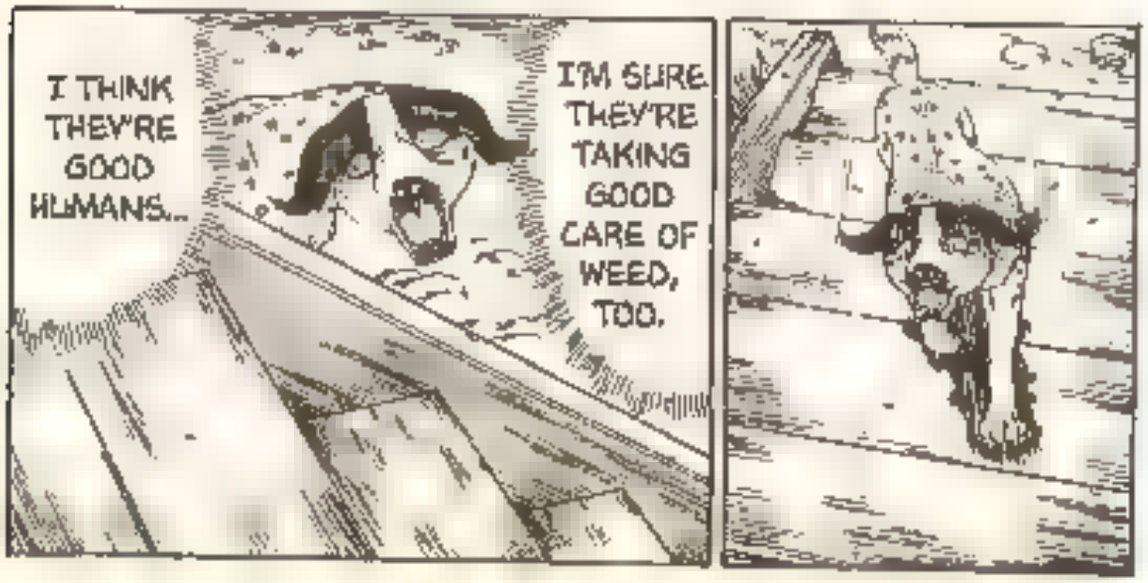
STEP

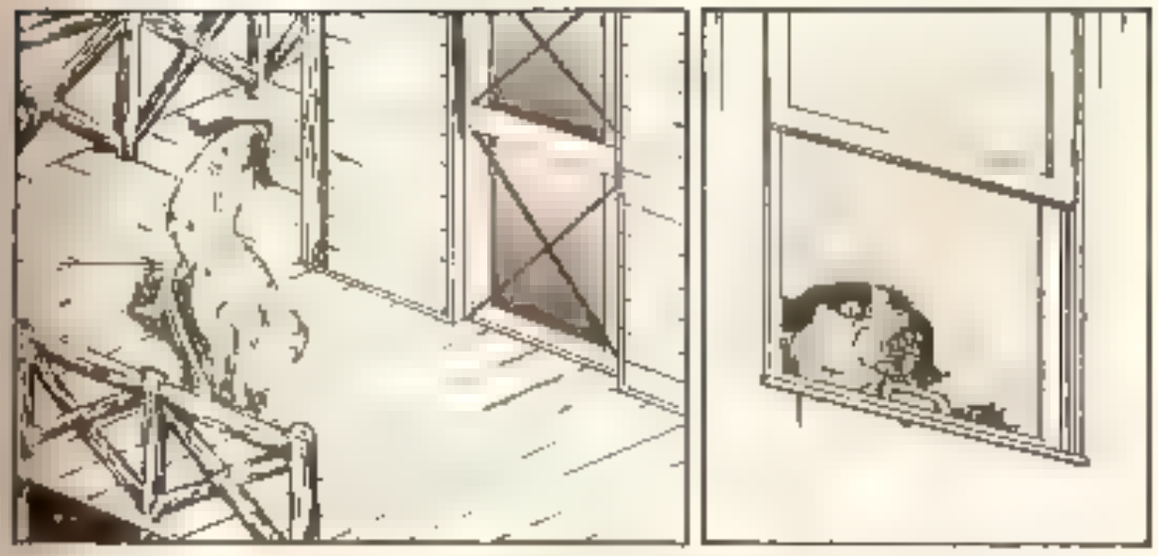
WOW! HE'S STILL HERE, DAISUKE! CAN I FEED HIM?

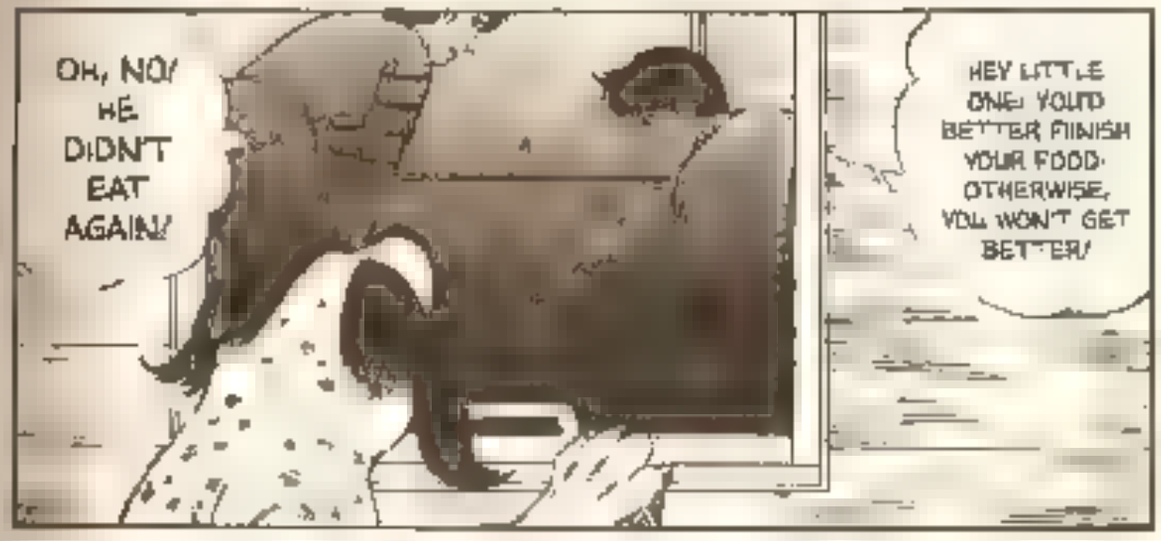
YEAH, GO AHEAD!

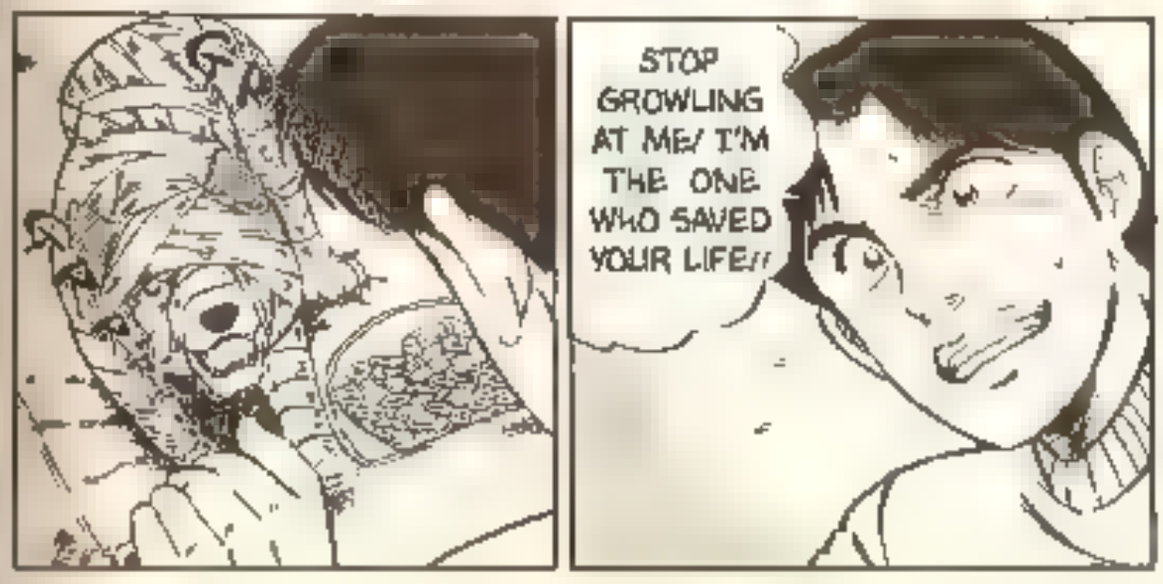

HERE YOU GO! THIS IS REALLY GOOD!
HUMMM. YOU'RE NOT BARKING AT ME TODAY. DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME ALREADY?


BUT I CAN SENSE HE'S SOMEWHERE IN THERE...
A WHOLE DAY PASSED SINCE THE INCIDENT, BUT I STILL CAN'T SEE WEED..


I THINK THEY'RE GOOD HUMANS...
I'M SURE THEY'RE TAKING GOOD CARE OF WEED, TOO.




OH, NO! HE DIDN'T EAT AGAIN!
HEY LITTLE ONE! YOU'D BETTER FINISH YOUR FOOD. OTHERWISE, YOU WON'T GET BETTER!


STOP GROWLING AT ME! I'M THE ONE WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE!!

PAUSE

HUH?!

HA, HA, HA! HE MUST BE ABLE TO UNDER-STAND ME!

HE STOPPED GROWLING LIKE HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT'S GOING ON!

IS THAT HIM? IS HE IN THERE?

DAMN, I CAN'T SEE!

.....

AROOO-H

HE'S MY PET! NEIL WE'RE TOGETHER!

WHY'D YOU COME HERE?

BE CAREFUL! YOU MIGHT GET BITTEN!

I KNOW...

WHILE LOOKING AT WEED...

DAISUKE IDENTIFIED HIM WITH HIS MEMORY OF THE YOUNG GIN...

STAY HERE WITH ME.

I THINK THIS IS WHERE YOU BELONG.

SHP

LICK...

.....

MOM! LOOK!

HE FINALLY ACCEPTED ME!

.....

WEED HAD NEVER BEEN HELD IN A HUMAN'S ARMS BEFORE, AND HE HAD NO IDEA THAT THE MAN WHO HELD HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME WAS ALSO THE MAN WHO'D RAISED HIS FATHER.

DOES THE LEGEND CARRY ON LIKE THIS FOR GENERATIONS?

ARE WE THE ONLY ONES LEFT?

I CAN'T FIND ANY OF MY FOLLOWERS...

SPLISH SPLASH

I DON'T THINK WE CAN FIND ANYONE AROUND HERE.

AND I CAN'T SMELL WEED, EITHER.

DAMN, FUTAGO PASS!

ALMOST EVERYONE'S DEAD...I FEEL SO EMPTY.

WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO NOW, KAGETORA? WE CAN'T BACK OFF LIKE THIS.

RIGHT. WE'VE GOTTA KILL THE MONSTER TO AVENGE OUR DEAD PARTNERS!

BUT HOW?!

WE'VE GOT THE SPIRIT, BUT THAT AIN'T ENOUGH...

YES, IT IS... IT'S POSSIBLE IF WE'RE WILLING TO RISK OUR LIVES.

LIKE THE ANTS THAT KNOCK OVER ELEPHANTS...

NOT SO FAST. I'M TALKING ABOUT PLANNING OUR STRATEGY HERE.

YOU STILL HAVE A FEW FOLLOWERS LEFT, DON'T YOU?

STOP BEING A BIG CHICKEN AND DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT GETTING SOMEONE ELSE'S HELP!

DON'T YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T DEPEND ON ANYONE BUT YOURSELF?!

FEH, YOU'RE STILL FEISTY AS HELL...

KAI DOGS GET OUT OF CONTROL WHEN THEY'RE MAD.

WHAT ?!

MY DAD USED TO TELL ME...

TO PICK A KAI DOG IF I WANTED A REAL FRIEND...

I HEARD THAT KAI DOGS ARE SO LOYAL AND THEY DON'T EVEN MIND RISKING THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR MASTERS OR FRIENDS.

FOOL, STOP BROWN-NOSING ME. YOU'RE TURNING ME OFF WITH THAT CORNY SPEECH.

.....

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

I SEE, THIS IS OUR FATHERS' MEETING PLACE...

THEY CALLED THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. AND GOT TOGETHER IN THIS PLACE TO BRING RED HELMET DOWN...

THIS IS THE SPOT.

AND NOW, WE'RE HERE...IS THIS FATE? IF THIS'S A COINCIDENCE, IT'S KIND OF OMINOUS...

FROM THE PERCH, TRIKI, THE CHIEF AT THE TIME, DELIVERED A TEARFUL SPEECH

IN APPRECIATION OF THE HARDSHIPS THE SOLDIERS HAD ENDURED.

THE SOLDIERS WHO SAW IT TREMBLED AND CRIED.

THEY SAID SOLDIERS TEARS WERE NOT ALWAYS FOR THEMSELVES, BUT FOR OTHERS AS WELL...

W-WHO IS IT?!

HUH?!

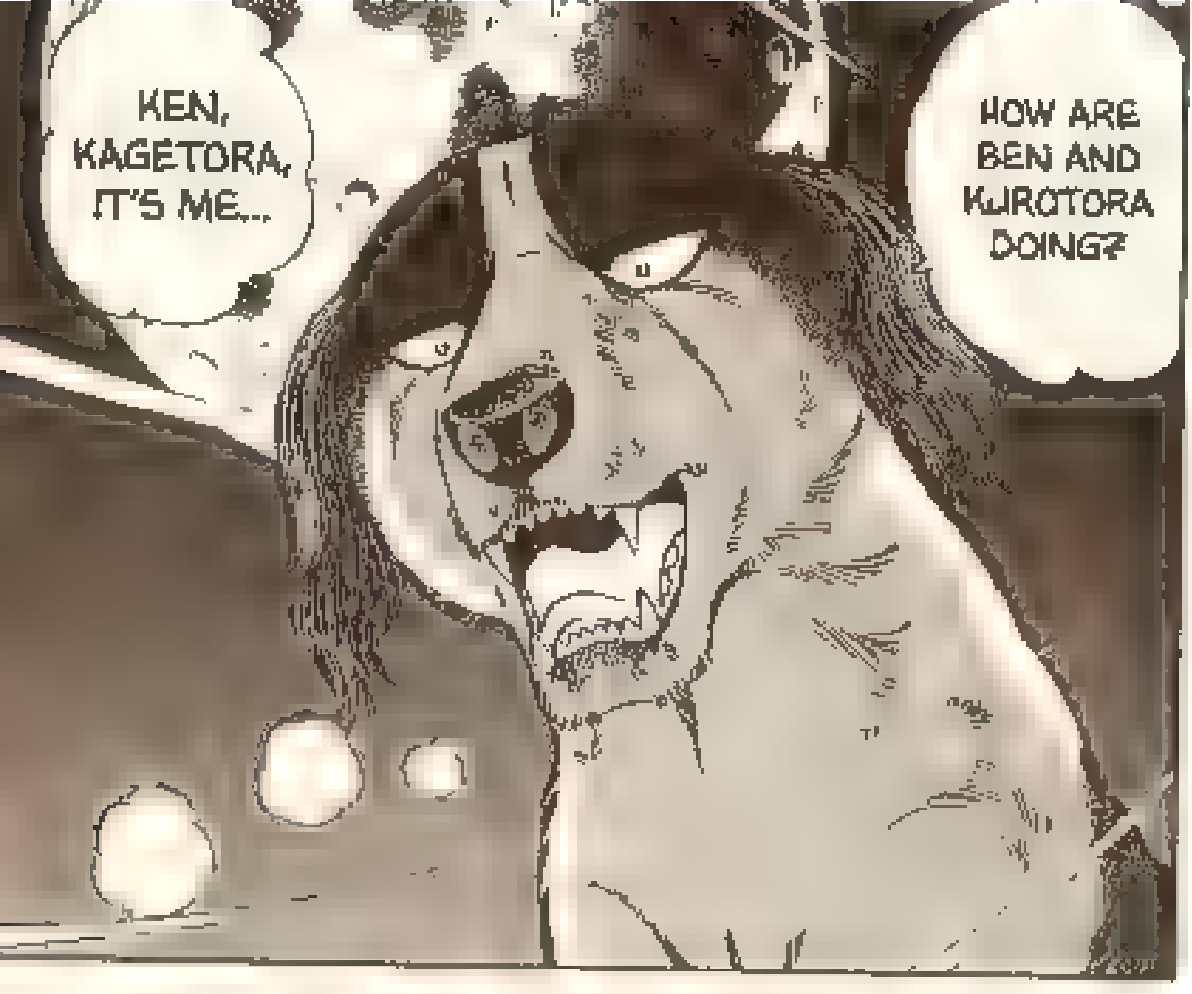
*TRIKI: GIN'S FATHER AND WEED'S GRANDFATHER.

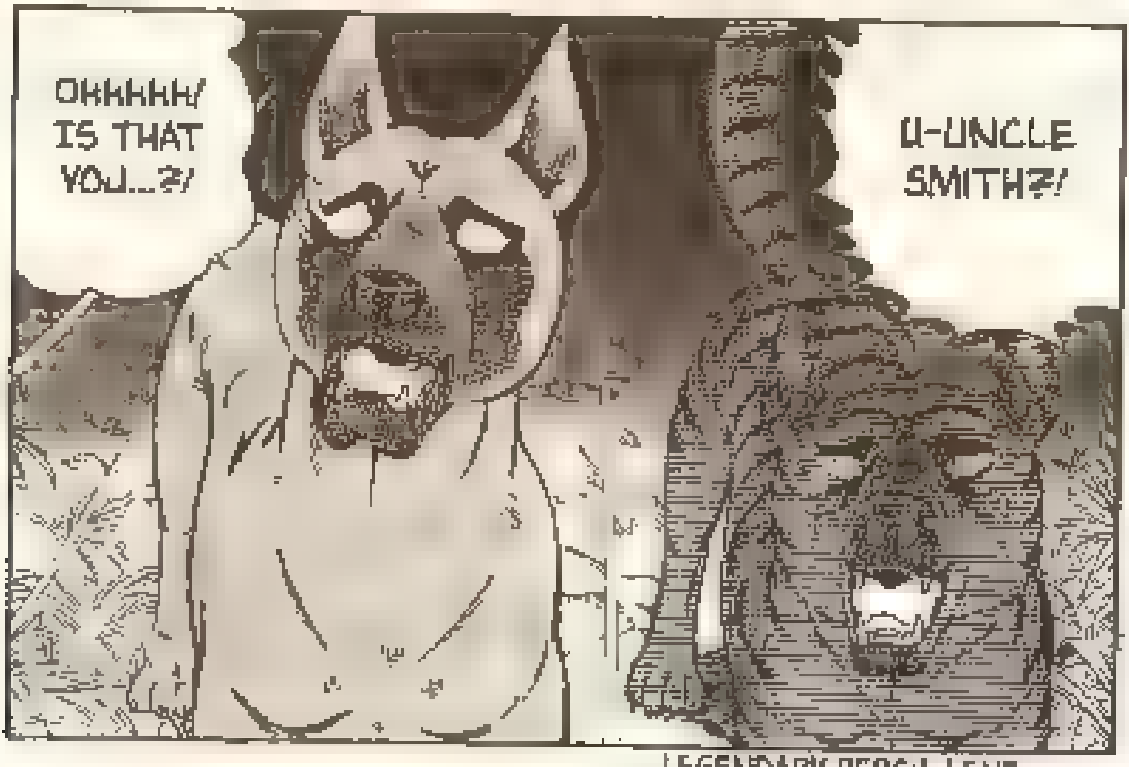
HEE-HEE, THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE....

LONG TIME NO SEE, KIDDO.

WHAT?!

WHO'S THAT OLD MAN?





LEGENDARY PERCH / END

THE 5TH STORY
TRUTH OF THE UTOPIA

HOW OLD ARE YOU GUYS NOW? YOU BOTH LOOK LIKE ADULTS.

I TAUGHT YOU HOW TO HUNT, REMEMBER?

AH... UNCLE SMITH...

IS THAT REALLY, REALLY YOU?!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY'RE YOU SO SCARED?

T-THERE'S A MONSTER AT GAJVO...

A MONSTER?! WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

GAJVO HAS BECOME THE DEN OF A HIDEOUS MONSTER!

AND IT'S BEEN EATING HUMANS *INSIDE* GAJVO.

KNOCK IT OFF!

DON'T LIE TO ME.

BRRR...

BR...

BELIEVE US/ WE'RE DEAD SERIOUS//

BECAUSE OF THE MONSTER, THE HUMANS STARTED TO HATE ALL OF US.

AND GUN-TOTING HUMANS ATTACKED US FROM ALL SIDES/

THE BOSS OF OHL GOT GUNNED DOWN..

AND HE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE..ALL THE TOPS WERE KILLED, TOO.

ARE THEY REALLY TELLING ME THE TRUTH?

WE HEARD GUN SHOTS AND TRIED TO HELP THEM, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.

BECAUSE LOWER CLASS SOLDIERS LIKE US WEREN'T ALLOWED WITHIN KM OF GAJYO, WE COULDN'T REACH THEM..

BA DUMP

THERE'S A MONSTER IN GAJYO.

AND IT'S EATING HUMANS ON OUR HOLY GROUND?/

BA DUMP

I SEE. DID EITHER OF YOU SEE GIN'S BODY? WHO SAW HIM DIE?

WHO?!

HE'S NOT HERE. THE DOG WHO SAW IT.

SO NOBODY HERE ACTUALLY SAW HIS CORPSE. THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT

GIN ISN'T STUPID ENOUGH TO GET SHOT BY A HUMAN

A DRIFTER NAMED WEED SAID HE SAW IT..

WHAT?!

REALLY? WEED'S HERE?!

SO GB MUST BE HERE, TOO! WHERE ARE THEY?!

WE DON'T KNOW, BUT WE DON'T THINK THEY'RE STILL ALIVE.

HE WAS HIT BY SHOTGUN FIRE

WEED'S DEAD..

NO WAY.. BUT WHAT ABOUT GB..?

I'M NOT 100% SURE

BUT I THINK GB WAS KILLED BY THE MONSTER..

IT CAN'T BE TRUE!

GULP

BUT IF YOU'RE NOT SURE

WE'LL NEVER KNOW IF THEY'RE DEAD...

MAYBE THE DOG WEED SAW... WASN'T GIN?

CAN IT BE?!

.....

IT COULD BE TOKIMUNE, WHO'S BEEN GIN'S SUBSTITUTE...

A SUBSTITUTE ?!

W-WHAT DID HE JUST SAY?!

BUSTLE

I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

IT'S JUST NOT LIKELY THAT GIN WOULD'VE BEEN GUNNED DOWN BY HUMANS.

.....

SINCE WE'RE IN A SERIOUS EMERGENCY, I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH.

ONLY A FEW KNOW ABOUT GIN'S SUBSTITUTE...

EVEN THE BOSS HIMSELF DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT.

BUT WHY?!

IT WAS *AKAME'S IDEA...

HE WAS THE ONE WHO DEVISED THIS STRATEGY.

"AKAME: A NINJA DOG FROM IGA. HE WAS ONE OF THE BEST SOLDIERS, AND ALSO GIN'S CLOSEST AIDE

YOUR FATHERS TOLD ME THAT THEY RETIRED AND MOVED TO NOEL. HAVE YOU HEARD FROM THEM LATELY?

NO...AFTER OUR 1ST BIRTHDAY WE BECAME PETTY SOLDIERS, AND HAD TO LEAVE OUR HOMES.

AND WE WEREN'T ABLE TO SEE OUR PARENTS UNLESS THEY CAME TO SEE US.

THAT'S RIGHT THAT REGULATION WAS ALSO SET BY AKAME.

HE THOUGHT YOUNGSTERS WEREN'T CAPABLE OF KEEPING THINGS CONFIDENTIAL.

BUSTLE BUSTLE

NOW, LISTEN...

WE DID EVERYTHING FOR THE UTOPIA.

GRRRR

TO TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS

AUGH

WE WON THE LAST 2 HOLY WARS.

AND OHLI BECAME A LAND OF EVERYONE'S DREAMS—A PLACE FINALLY CALLED THE TRUE UTOPIA.

DASH!

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M GIN.

BUT IT BECAME A BURDEN TO US...

DOGS FROM ALL OVER JAPAN STARTED TO ARRIVE. SOME TO JOIN, SOME TO CHALLENGE.

AND IF NECESSARY,

WE HAD TO GO AND TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS.

THAT WAS OUR JOB AT THAT TIME.

BUT WE COULDN'T ALWAYS DO EVERYTHING AS A GROUP.

SO WE SPLIT INTO SMALLER UNITS.

AND SOLVED ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS.

SOME PROBLEMS WERE EVEN TOO MUCH FOR THE TOPS.

BUT GIN WAS ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF 'EM IMMEDIATELY.

WHICH MEANT THAT WE NEEDED GIN TO SOLVE THE TOUGHEST PROBLEMS.

WHEN WE WERE IN AWA COUNTY, WE WERE SURROUNDED BY OVER 200 DOGS!

WE WERE TRICKED.

WE WERE TOLD THERE'D ONLY BE 50 BANDITS, SO WERE WERE ONLY 8 OF US.

WE MADE A RAID AT'T CAPT.

AND WE THOUGHT WE WERE ALL GOING TO DIE.

BUT GIN CAME TO TAKE SIDES WITH US.

BECAUSE HE WAS THERE, MORE THAN HALF THE ENEMIES DEFECTED TO OUR SIDE AND WE WON.

THE BOSS OF ONI WAS REALLY CHARISMATIC.

AND SO WERE JOHN AND AKAME.

SOMETIMES WE'D GO ON EXPEDITIONS FOR MONTHS...

AND THE SECURITY OF THE HOME TURF OF FUTAGO PASS COULD GET PRETTY POOR. AKAME WAS ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT IT.

SO HE RECRUITED VOLUNTEER

AND TRAINED THEM TO BE PREFECT SUBSTITUTES

SO IS GIN ACTUALLY ALIVE?!

SO WHY DID YOU LEAVE HERE, UNCLE SMITH?

I BELIEVE SO.

YES, I REALLY DO.

FEH.. I WISH YOU DIDN'T ASK ME THAT

I DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT.

IT WOULD DISCOURAGE EVERYONE.

.....

ANYWAY... LET'S GO TAKE CARE OF THE MONSTER.

I WON'T FORCE YOU... FOLLOW ME ONLY IF YOU'RE PREPARED.

NORTH-
ERN
ALPS

DAMN!!

THEY'RE
SUCH
LOSERS!

I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE LET
GB AND
SASUKE
GO.

IF...

HUH
?!

WE WANNA
ASK YOU
SOMETHING
...

TUTIK!

WHAT
THE...?!

WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE?!

HOW'D THEY
CLOSE IN
ON ME SO
FAST?!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEMALE WHO'S SUPPOSEDLY IN THE NORTHERN ALPS...

ARE THOSE THE NORTHERN ALPS?

TRUTH OF THE UTOPIA / END

THE 6TH TO
ARROW O JUSTICE

SSSWWWOOOO

WHAT'D YOU SAY?!

NERO'S OUR BOSS! HOW DARE YOU TALK TO HIM LIKE THAT!

WHIZZZZ

WHIZZZZ

SAY IT TO MY FACE AGAIN.

WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR A FIGHT--AND WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT LOOKING TO KILL ANYONE.

WE JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT A FEMALE.

DO I LOOK LIKE A FOOL?!

PUNKS!

LET'S GET 'EM!

YEAH!!

ZAP!

SNAP

SNAP

YAAA/

TAKE THIS!!

RAAAHGHH/

GRRRR

YAAH/

..THEY DON'T EVEN MOVE/ AND HE'S AS HEAVY AS LEAD..

HUFF...

HUFF...

WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG? JUST GET IT OVER WITH/

WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING?/

STOP DEPENDING ON OTHERS! WHY DON'T YOU DO IT?!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?/

!!

WHOOSH

SCRAMBLE

UMPH!!

AYEEE!!!

TUMBLE

WHOOSH

TUMBLE

UHGH!

BOSS!

NERO!!

WHAT THE....?!

IT [redacted] HARD FOR HER TO DEAL WITH THIS WEATHER ALONE...

NO...SHE'S NOT ALONE. I'M SURE SHE'S WITH A PUPPY.

OH... SAKURA, WHERE DID YOU GO?

IS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND YOU?

HEY WEED, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

WEED...

HEY LOOK, I'M HERE!

THIS WAY...

OH!

GB!!

DASH

WOW! GB! I'M GLAD YOU'RE OK!!

HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING FOR ME?

YOU BET! I'M YOUR GODFATHER FOR GOD'S SAKE!

HUMANS MUST HAVE REALLY GOOD MEDICINE

IT'S BEEN ONLY A FEW DAYS, BUT YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD!

AND THE YOUNG HUMAN WHO SAVED YOU...HE'S REALLY A NICE GUY, DON'T YOU THINK?

I'M NOT HIS DOG, BUT HE FEEDS ME TWICE A DAY!

BUT WHY IS HE SO NICE TO US?

OTHER HUMANS K...LED MY DAD..

DUNNO.. I GUESS THERE'RE GOOD HUMANS AND BAD HUMANS.

AND HE HAPPENS TO BE A GOOD ONE.

WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE?!

I HOPE HAGETORA AND THE OTHERS ARE OK...

..WELL, THEY FELL OFF THE HIGHEST CLIFF..

I'M SURE THEY GOT WIPED OUT.

NO WAY!!

WHAT CAN I SAY? THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, AND IT'S NOT OUR FAULT.

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING GB?!

DON'T SAY THAT! THEY'RE OUR PARTNERS!!

FOOL! DON'T BE SO LOUD!

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL BUT..

WHAT'S THE MATTER SHORTY?

WHAT?!

WHIIINE

HEY...YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME.

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T HURT YOUR BEST FRIEND.

HUH? WAS THAT THE SPOTTY ONE?

YOU MUST REALLY CARE FOR EACH OTHER.

NOW, LET ME TAKE A LOOK...

WHITINE, WHITINE

SHH...IT'S OK...GOOD BOY!

BY NATURE, WILD ANIMALS HAVE POWERFUL HEALING PROPERTIES, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S COMBINED WITH DRUGS.

AND SINCE WEED'S SYSTEM WAS NEW TO THE DRUGS, HIS RECOVERY WAS QUICK AND DRAMATIC.

WOW! YOU'RE AMAZING!

THE VISIBLE WOUNDS ARE ALMOST CURED OMPLETELY...

YOU'VE GOT ONE TOUGH CONSTITUTION, BOY!

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'VE SEEN A BEAR BEFORE HUNTED BY THIS OLD GUY I USED TO KNOW...

AND THE BEAR HAD AN OLD SCAR...CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW THE SCAR LOOKED?!

IT'S MUSCLE EXTRUDED THE BULLET, AND THE BULLET WAS ATTACHED TO IT'S SKIN!

ISN'T IT AMAZING?

GIN WAS HERE, TOO...

HE STAYED WITH ME UNTIL HE WAS ABOUT YOUR SIZE.

I'M DONE.

YOU DON'T WANT ME TO WRAP YOU UP TOO TIGHT, DO YOU?

ALRIGHT, SEE YA TOMOR-ROW...

YANK

HLK ?

DO YOU WANNA GET OUT?

BUT FOR WHAT ?!

WHIINE, WHIINE ...

ARF! ARF!

IN PAST YEARS, DAISUKE COULD READ GIN'S EMOTIONS.

THEREFORE, HE COULD UNDERSTAND WEED INSTANTLY...

YOU MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR PARTNERS.

WHINE WHINE ...

IS HE TRYING TO PROTECT ONE, JUST LIKE GIN?

DOES HE WANNA DESTROY THAT HUGE MONSTER?

ARF!

ARF! ARF!

FINE/ GO!!

DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO/

SQUEAK

.....

DOGS ARE JUST LIKE HUMANS ...

NOBODY HAS A RIGHT TO STOP THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS.

BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT WE ARE, WE ALL HAVE THIS NATURE.

DASH!

AND IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR FOR ME TO CHAIN YOU DOWN.

WEED/

LET'S GO, GB...

WE GOTTA SAVE THEM/

LISTEN, EVERYONE'S DEAD!!

BESIDES, AREN'T YOU SCARED OF THE MONSTER ?/

YES, I'M SCARED, BUT BUT WHAT IF SOMEONE'S STILL ALIVE?

I KNOW I'M STILL A KID, BUT THAT SOMEONE MIGHT NEED MY HELP/

IS HE CRAZY? HOW CAN HE BE SO NICE?/

HE'S STILL A BABY. WE DON'T OWE THEM ANYTHING...

TO THANK DAISUKE, WEED JUMPED AS HIGH AS HE COULD.

AROO

THE JUMP MADE THE BANDAGES COME LOOSE,

AND WEED'S SILVERY TIGER FUR, JUST LIKE HIS FATHER'S, WAS BARED

MY GOD... HE LOOKS JUST LIKE GIN!

GIN MUST BE HIS FATHER...

IDIOT!!

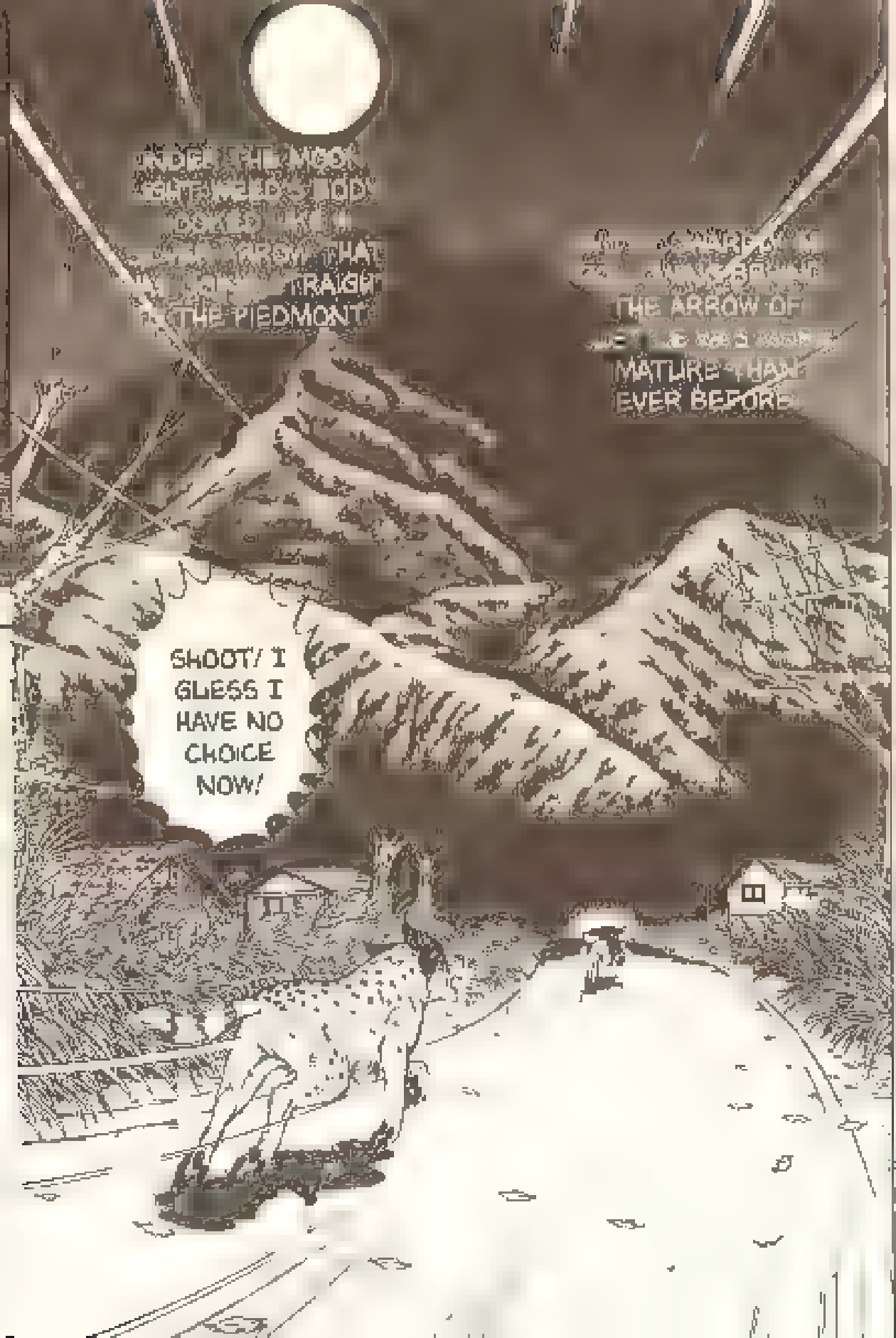
I'M REALLY SICK AND TIRED OF YOU!

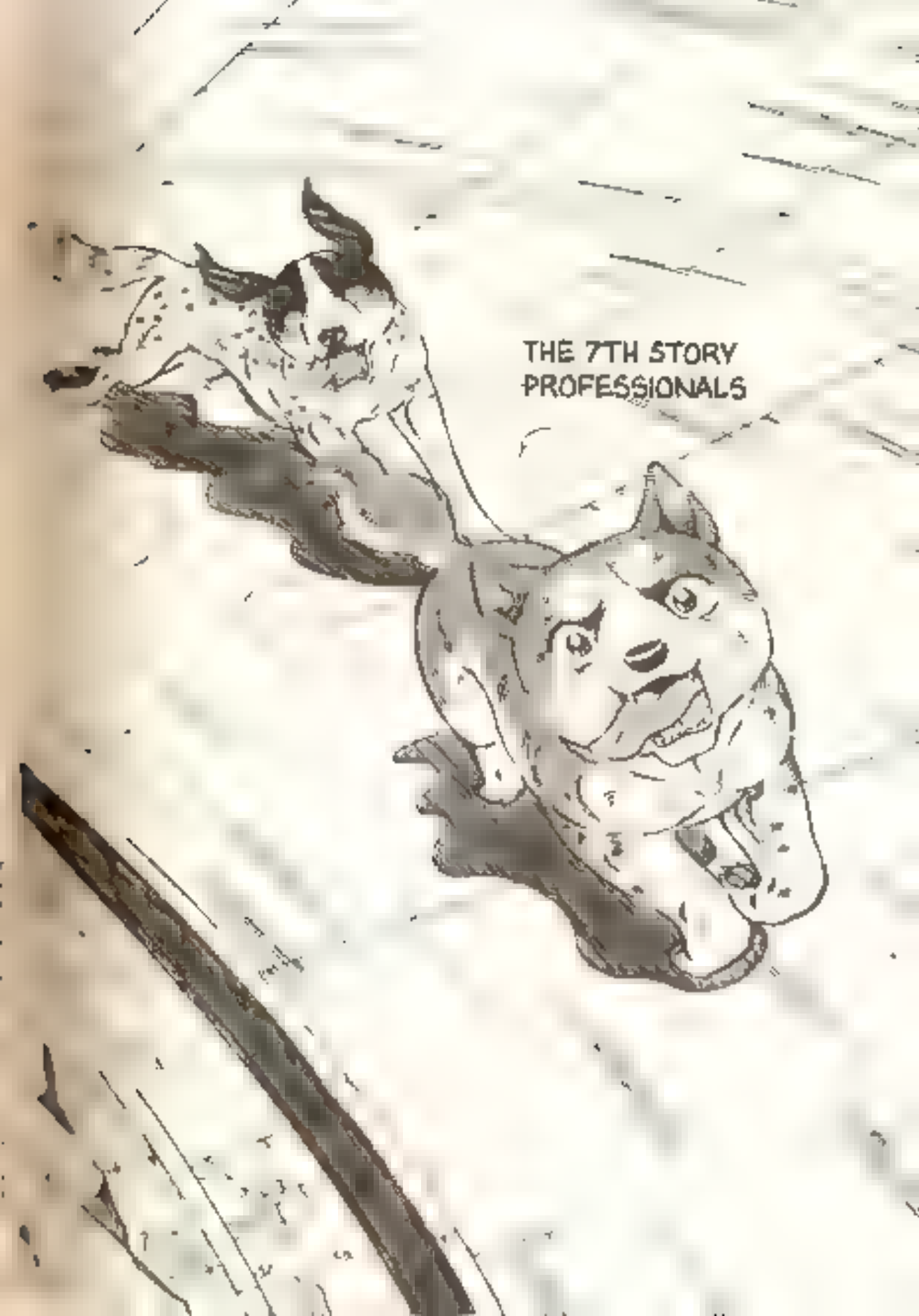
NO WAY, JOSE...

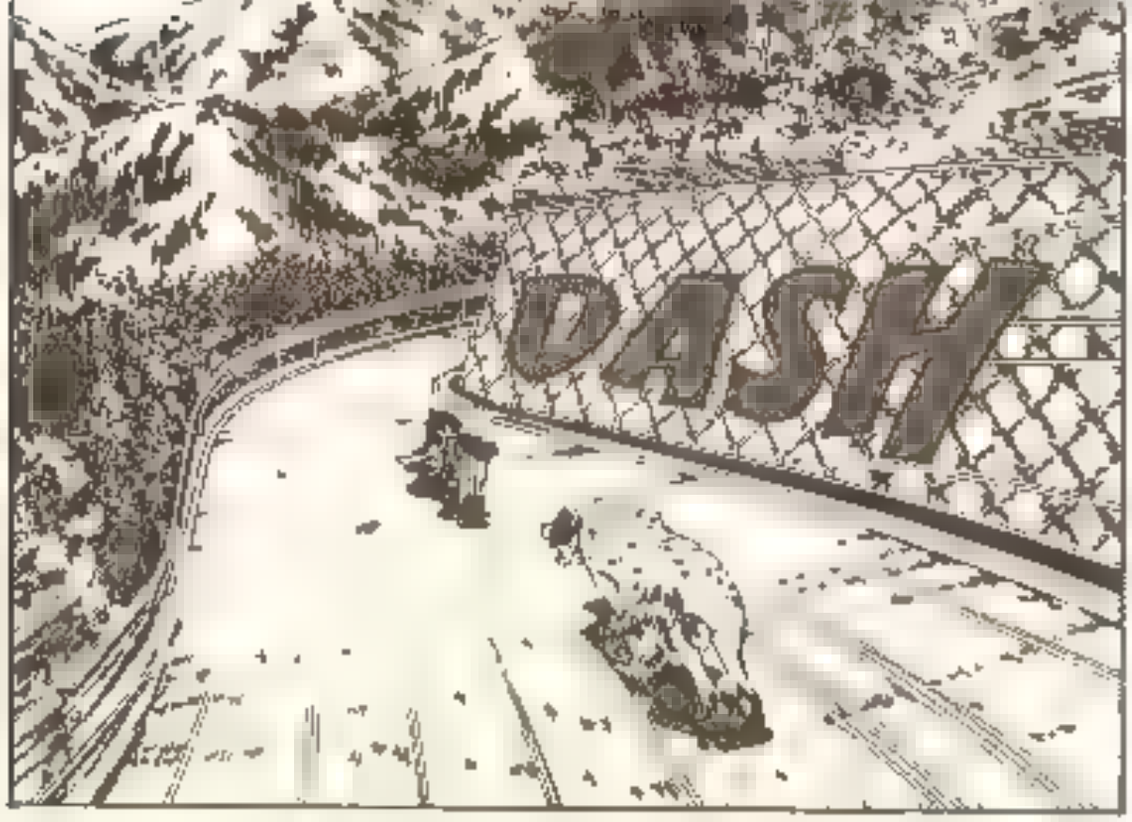
OOPS, IT'S NOT A GOOD TIME TO JOKE AROUND!

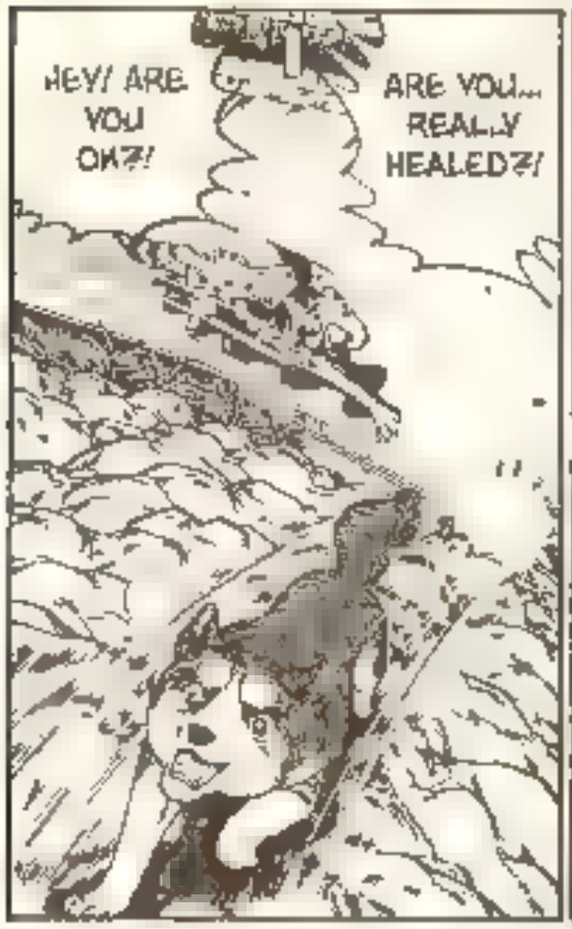
DAMN! I'M BEING TOO NICE!

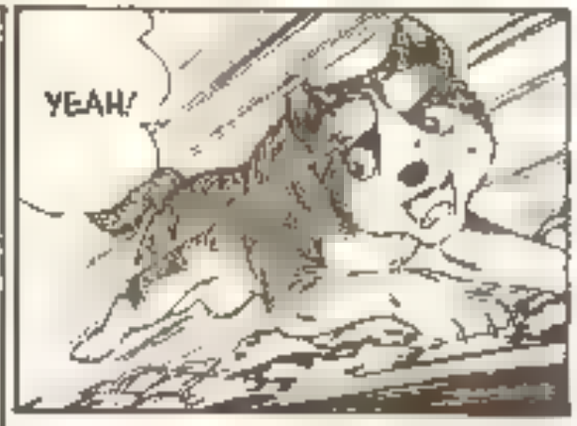
I GUESS MY LUCK RAN OUT THE DAY I MET HIM.


THE ARROW OF
MATURE THAN
EVER BEFORE
SHOOT! I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE NOW!

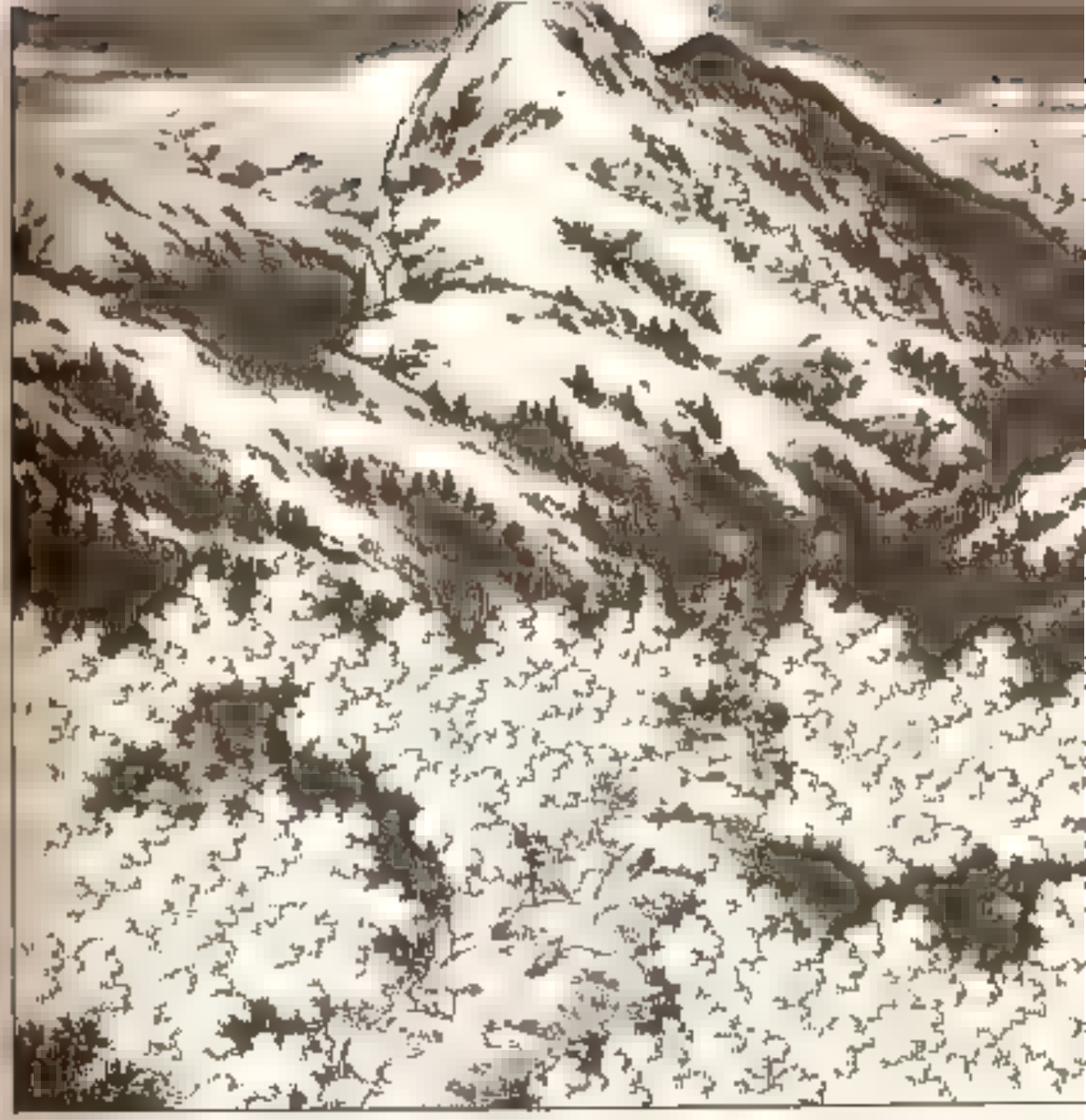

THE 7TH STORY
PROFESSIONALS


DASH

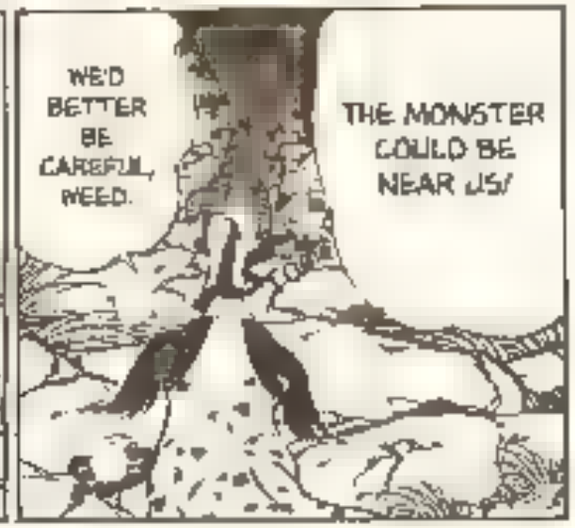

HEY! ARE YOU OK?!
ARE YOU... REALLY HEALED?!


YEAH!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. HE'S SO TOUGH!
AND I CAN BARELY CATCH UP TO HIM.



WE MADE IT. WE'RE AT THE BASE OF FUTAGO PASS..


WE'D BETTER BE CAREFUL, WEED.
THE MONSTER COULD BE NEAR US!

TOOM

TOOM

TOOM

TOOM

TOOM

TOOM

TOOM

TOOM

HEY KEN... DO YOU THINK UNCLE SMITH WILL BE OK?

HE'S PRETTY OLD. DO YOU THINK HE CAN STILL FIGHT?

I BELIEVE IN HIM. HE'S THE BOSS NOW.

HE USED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE LEGENDARY DEATH SQUAD OF OKU AND HE WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE. HE HAD TO BE INCREDIBLY STRONG.

BEN... KUROTORA... BEING WITH YOUR SONS REMINDS ME OF...

THE TIME WE WERE ALL YOUNG AND FULL OF ENERGY...

YEAH

DAMN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF BEAST IT IS.

HOW COULD IT HURT WEED AND GB? IT'LL PAY FOR WHAT IT'S DONE TO MY FRIENDS.

HOLD IT!

!?

HEEEY!!! EVERYONE WAIT!

DASH

HUH?!

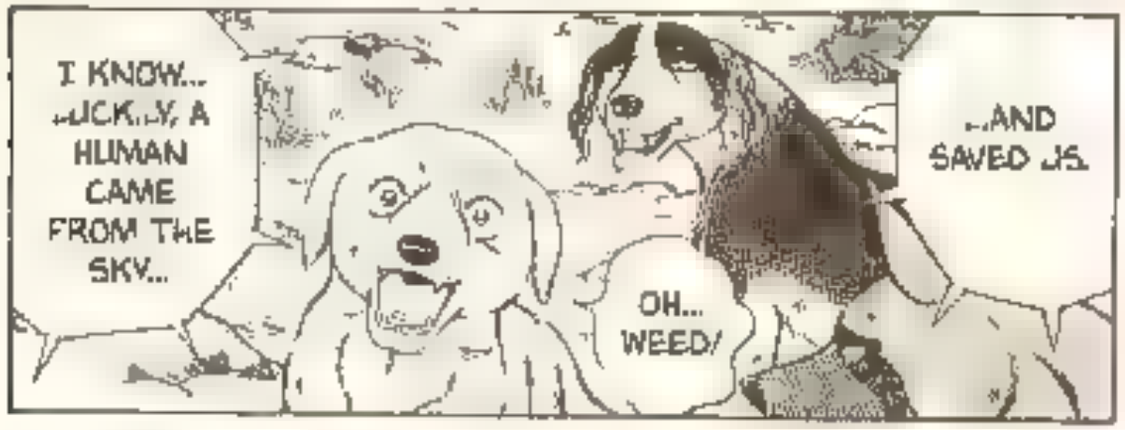
WHA...

OH, THEY'RE ..

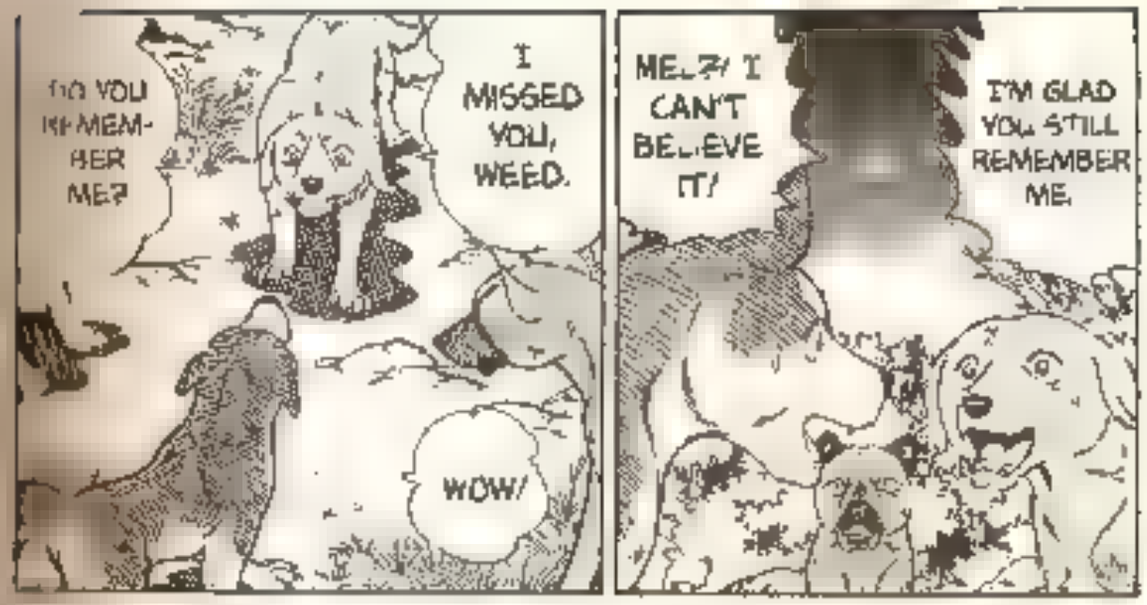
I KNEW IT!!

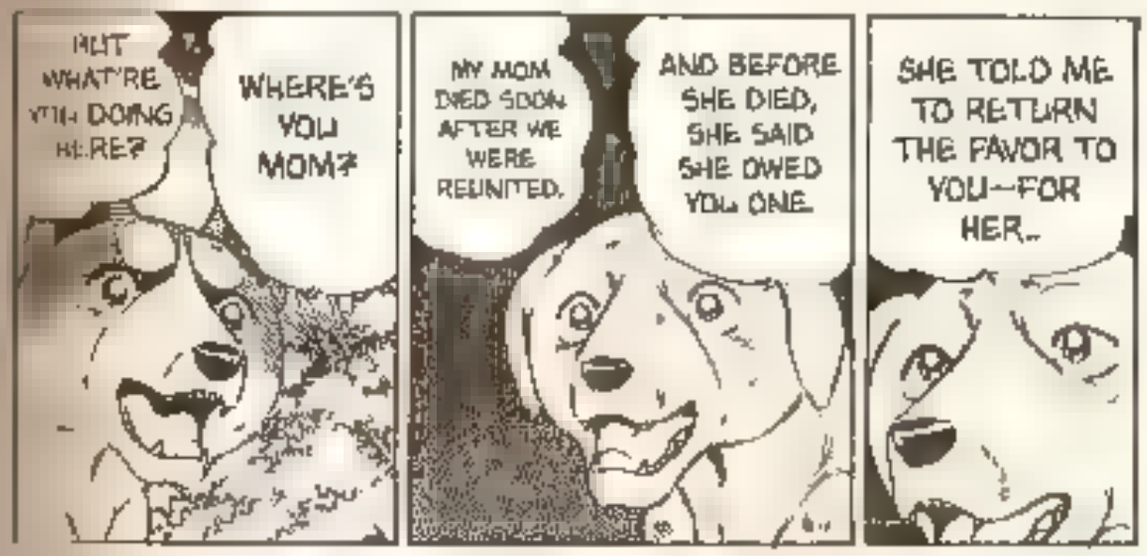
KAGETORA! KEN! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!!

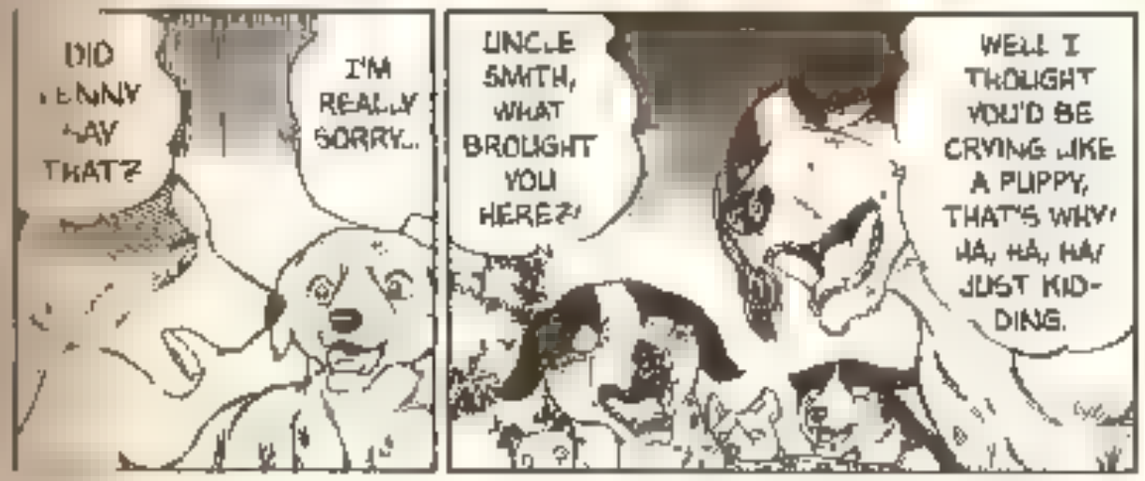
WEED! I--IT'S YOU!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GUYS ARE OK!


I KNOW... LUCKILY, A HUMAN CAME FROM THE SKY...
OH... WEED!
...AND SAVED US.

AMAZING! SOME SAY THE MOST POWERFUL DOGS EVEN ATTRACT LUCK.
AND THIS KID'S BEEN AS LUCKY AS HIS FATHER.


DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
I MISSED YOU, WEED.
WOW!
ME?! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I'M GLAD YOU STILL REMEMBER ME.


BUT WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
WHERE'S YOU MOM?
MY MOM DIED SOON AFTER WE WERE REUNITED.
AND BEFORE SHE DIED, SHE SAID SHE OWED YOU ONE.
SHE TOLD ME TO RETURN THE FAVOR TO YOU--FOR HER.


DID I SAY THAT?
I'M REALLY SORRY...
UNCLE SMITH, WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?!
WELL I THOUGHT YOU'D BE CRYING LIKE A PUPPY, THAT'S WHY! HA, HA, HA! JUST KIDDING.

THE REUNION EASED EVERY-ONE'S TENSION.

BUT SMITH WAS STILL SHARPENING HIS SENSES PREPARING FOR HIS NEW MISSION.

I MUST PROTECT THESE KIDS..

NO MATTER WHAT, I CAN'T LET ANY OF THEM DIE IN FRONT OF MY EYES.

HUH?!

WHERE IS IT?!

SNOR

SNOR

SNORT

WHERE IS IT?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

UNCLE SMITH ?!

DON'T YOU GUYS FEEL THIS AURA?

OOOH, I CAN FEEL IT!

I CAN FEEL A DARK, HEAVY SPIRIT...

AURA?! COULD IT BE THE MONSTER?!

OH! WHAT THE...?!

LOOK UP!

NO—NO, THEY'RE NOT... THAT'S NOT THE MONSTER.

WASN'T THE MONSTER ALONE?!

ALL OF YOU STAY HERE! JUST WATCH ME!!

WOOOOOW!!

I WAS GIN'S PARTNER-- PARTNER TO THE BOSS OF CHU.

AND A PROUD MEMBER OF THE DEATH SQUAD!

UNCLE SMITH!

STAY HERE WEED IT'S OUR BOSS' ORDER

DASH

SMACK

UHGH!

AUGH!

THUD

UNCLE SMITH!

YOU BASTARDS!

HOLD ON, UNCLE SMITH!

THEY'RE NOT THE MONSTER, BUT—

WHAT?

!!

NOT SO FAST, POP...

WE'RE NOT YOUR ENEMIES!

WHAT THE...?!

WE ALREADY KNOW WHERE THE MONSTER IS. AND WE DON'T NEED YOUR HELP AT ALL.

JUST LEAVE THE REST TO US.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

WHO ARE YOU GUYS?!

HOLD IT!

DO YOU REALLY KNOW HOW VICIOUS THE MONSTER IS?!

MONSTER?! ..FEH, HE'S NOT A MONSTER.

HE WAS AN EXPERIMENTAL DOG WHO WAS GENETICALLY ENGINEERED BY HUMANS.

AND WE WERE ALL TRAINED TO KILL...
BY THOSE HUMANS.
WE'RE PROFESSIONAL KILLERS.

8TH STORY

PRO-FESSIONAL KILLERS ?!

AND HOW DID THE MONSTER END UP HERE?!

WE'VE BEEN AFTER HIM FOR THE LAST 4 YEARS.

OUR MISSION IS TO EXTERMINATE HIM.

WE'VE BEEN RISKING OUR LIVES FOR IT...

AND WE WON'T LET STRAY DOGS LIKE YOU STOP US!

WATCH YOUR MOUTH, BOILER!

!!

IT'S TOO LATE NOW! WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

YOU'RE THE ONES WHO INVADED OUR TERRITORY!

HEE-HEE/
STOP PLAYING,
YOU FOOL/
WHAT'RE YOU
TRYING TO
PROVE?/

HEY/
HOILER//

ACK/

!?

AUGH!

.....

YOU LITTLE...

SMASH!

ROLL

TUMBLE

...A, HA, HA!! WI..L DONE, WEED!

IT'S MY TURN NOW!!

HOLD IT!!

I SAID H..LD IT..

UNCLE SMITH..

YOU IDIOT!

.....

.....

ALL OF YOU NEED TO GROW UP!

FIRST, YOU GOTTA BE WILLING TO LISTEN.

BUT YOU JUMPED ON HIM, TOO..

ME? IT WAS JUST A LITTLE MISUNDER-STANDING

.....

AND STOP RATTING AROUND IN MY FACE!!

GO BACK TO YOUR FRIENDS.

WHAT?! ARE YOU TALKING TO ME?!

YOU HEARD ME.

DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT IT..

GET BACK, HOILER!

BUT JEROME !!

THIS IS AN ORDER!!

.....

PLOSH!

YOU'D BETTER GO BACK DOWN THERE, TOO.

SEEMS LIKE WE'RE HAVING A HARD TIME GETTING ALONG.

THUD

GO, NOW I KNOW YOUR MISSION.

BUT WHY'RE YOU AFTER THE MONSTER?

4 YEARS AGO WE WERE KEPT AT A CONFIDENTIAL LABORATORY. A LAB THAT WAS PART OF A MAJOR PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY.

THE CONFIDENTIAL LABORATORY WAS BUILT IN A LARGE, HEAVILY GUARDED LOT. AND WE AND ABOUT 50 OTHER TRAINED DOGS WERE THERE AS GUARD DOGS.

TO BE SAFE, THE EXPERIMENTAL ANIMALS WERE CAGED IN SECRECY AT THE CONFIDENTIAL LABORATORY.

AND ME WAS KEPT IN A BUILDING CALLED P4, THE BUILDING FOR THE MOST DANGEROUS ANIMALS.

IN P4, HUMANS WERE TRYING TO CREATE ANIMALS FOR ORGAN DONATION.

THEY WERE DOING THINGS LIKE GIVING HUMAN GROWTH HORMONES TO ANIMALS AND MESSING WITH GENE MANIPULATION.

OUR WORK PLACE WAS A HIGHLY-SECURED BUILDING. NOT EVEN AN ANT COULD GET IN.

AND THE FIRST 3 YEARS WENT BY WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE.

BUT ONE DAY...

SOMETHING HAPPENED.

BEEP!
BEEP!
BEEP!
HUH?!
THE ALARM IS ON!
DASH
IT'S COMING FROM P4!!
WHAT?!
THAT'S MY JURISDICTION!
DASH
WHAT HAPPENED?!

WHEN WE GOT THERE,
HE'D TURNED INTO A DEADLY WEAPON AND KILLED TWO OF THE LAB SCIENTISTS.
...MY NEIGHBORS WHO ENDED TODAY.
...JEROME, I DON'T WANNA KILL YOU BECAUSE WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME.
...BUT I'M GONNA KILL THE SCIENTISTS AND NOW I HAVE A MORE [illegible]
WHY?! WE CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT!!
LOOK AT ME! IT'S ALL THEIR FAULT! NOBODY CAN CONTROL MY ANGER!

I USED TO BE A NORMAL DOG LIKE YOU—AND THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANNA KILL YOU!

GET AWAY!

GRRR!

SHYAAA!

SO, GET OFF MY BACK!

WHOEVER TRIES TO STOP ME WILL GET KILLED TOO!

SNAP

HIS POWERFUL BLOW BROKE MY SHOULDERS...I WAS USELESS.

BUT WE ALL RISKED OUR LIVES TO PROTECT THE LAB!

HE BOUNCED OFF ALL OF US...

AND TOOK OFF WITHOUT SLAUGHTERING ALL THE HUMANS...

ARF!

ARF!

ARF!

BUT 3 DAYS LATER...

WE FOUND THAT THE MANAGER OF THE LAB WAS MISSING ...

AHHH!!

OH MY GOD!!

HIS BODY WAS FOUND ON A MOUNTAIN, 3 MILES FROM THE LAB.

HIS BODY HAD BEEN MUTILATED, AND THIS WAS A MESSAGE TO EVERYONE...HE WAS OUT FOR REVENGE.

SINCE THEN, I'VE DUELED WITH HIM TWICE.

I USED TO HAVE 15 FOLLOWERS, BUT NOW, THERE'RE ONLY 4 OF US...

I'M SORRY TO INVADE YOUR TERRITORY, BUT THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF OUR BOSS...

WE MUST CLEAN UP THE MESS OUR BOSS CAUSED.

FAIR ENOUGH. GO TAKE CARE OF HIM, THEN.

BUT THIS ISN'T GONNA MAKE US SIT BACK AND RELAX!

HE RUINED OUR UTOPIA AND KILLED OUR PARTNERS.

WE MUST MAKE HIM PAY FOR IT, TOO!

DON'T DO IT OR YOU'LL END UP DEAD.

.....

.....

...FINE, THEN DO WHAT EVER YOU WANNA DO!

...BUT ...

...UNDER ONE CONDITION ..

WHAT IS IT?!
LET ME BE IN CHARGE OF THAT LITTLE BRAT!
WHO, ME?! BUT WHY?!

DEAL / END

THE 9TH STORY
GROWL OF A BEAR HOUND

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE PUSHING YOUR LUCK A LITTLE TOO HARD?!

I MUST SAY THAT AMONG ALL OF YOU, ONLY WEED CAN BE BENEFICIAL TO US.

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY? DO YOU MEAN TO TELL US THAT WE'RE BENEATH WEED?!

THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?

WEED'S STILL A KID...

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW YOUNG HE IS!

ALL I CARE ABOUT IS HIS AGILITY— AND ONLY I CAN BRING THAT OUT OF HIM.

HE SAW HOW GOOD WEED WAS...

AND HE EVALUATED THE HIDDEN POWER WITHIN HIM.

NO WAY! DO YOU KNOW WHO WEED IS?!

HIS FATHER IS THE BOSS OF OHJ!!

WHAT?!

THAT FACE. THE SILVERY TIGER FUR! HE ..LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM...

I THOUGHT THAT WHEN I FIRST SAW THE PUP. BUT I WASN'T SURE.

HUH ...?

I WAS ONLY 2 YEARS OLD...

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR GUARD DOGS

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

HAVE YOU SEEN GIN BEFORE?

JEROME WAS IN A TRAINING SCHOOL AS A POLICE DOG.

AT THAT TIME, GIN WAS ALREADY FAMOUS.

WHAT? DAMON THE WILD DOG IS ASSEMBLING A SQUAD?

YUP. I HEARD HE BROUGHT GIN'S WRATH DOWN ON HIM. EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT IT.

SEEMS LIKE DAMON AND HIS FAMILY KILLED ONE OF GIN'S MESSENGERS.

FOR REAL?

GIN GOT MAD AND DECIDED TO PAY THEM BACK.

SOME SAY TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT. WE CAN'T MISS IT, YOU KNOW?

OH! THE BLACK ONE IS DAMON...

AND HOW DID HE MANAGE TO ASSEMBLE THAT MANY BACK UPS? THERE'S GOTTA BE AT LEAST 200 OF THEM!

BUT THE RUMOR SAYS GIN'S GOT 2,000 SOLDIERS...

WELL, DAMON'S NO MATCH FOR GIN, ANYWAY.

BUT WHAT DAMON SAW WAS...

WHAT THE...?!

THERE HE IS!

GIN APPEARED RIGHT BEFORE DAMON'S NOSE, OPENLY.

AND THE RUMOR WAS WRONG; HE ONLY HAD ONE BACKUP.

TOO

TOO

IS HE SERIOUS ?!

THERE'RE ONLY 2 OF THEM!!

DAMON GOT FURIOUS.

HE TOOK IT AS AN INSULT.

WOOWAWA!!

HE LOST CONTROL AND WAS THE FIRST ONE TO JUMP ON GIN.

HIS FANGS SNAPPED AT EMPTY AIR AGAIN AND AGAIN.

AND HE COULDN'T EVEN TOUCH GIN. HE MOVED AS QUICK AS LIGHTNING, AND JEROME COULDN'T SEE HIM WITH THE NAKED EYE.

THEN GIN MADE A COUNTER-CHARGE AGAINST DAMON, BUT NOBODY COULD SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

DARK

DAMON WAS THROWN ON THE GROUND AND THAT WAS THE END OF HIM.

AND NOBODY TRIED TO CHALLENGE THEM.

YOU'RE COMING, AREN'T YOU, WEED?

THE MONSTER'S NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE.

WEED, DON'T! IT'S DANGEROUS!

HE'S RIGHT! THEY COULD STAB YOU IN THE BACK!

THAT'S THE MAN OF THE LEGEND..

THAT DAY, GIN BECAME MY ROLE MODEL.

I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU!!

ANSWER ME, WEED!!

AND TODAY, GIN'S KID IS HERE IN FRONT OF ME.

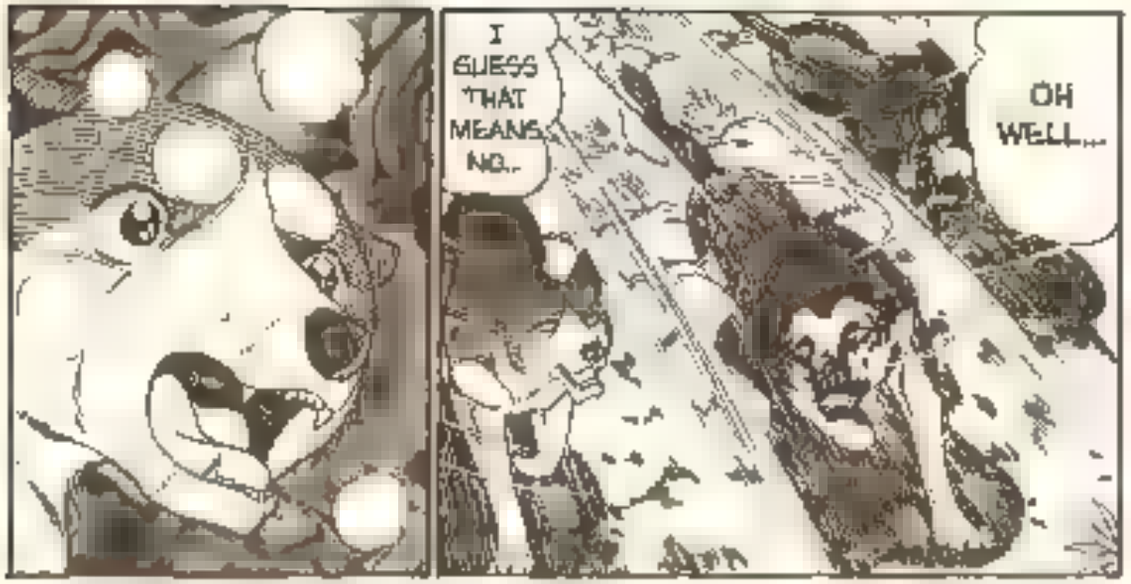
THIS MUST BE MY FATE...

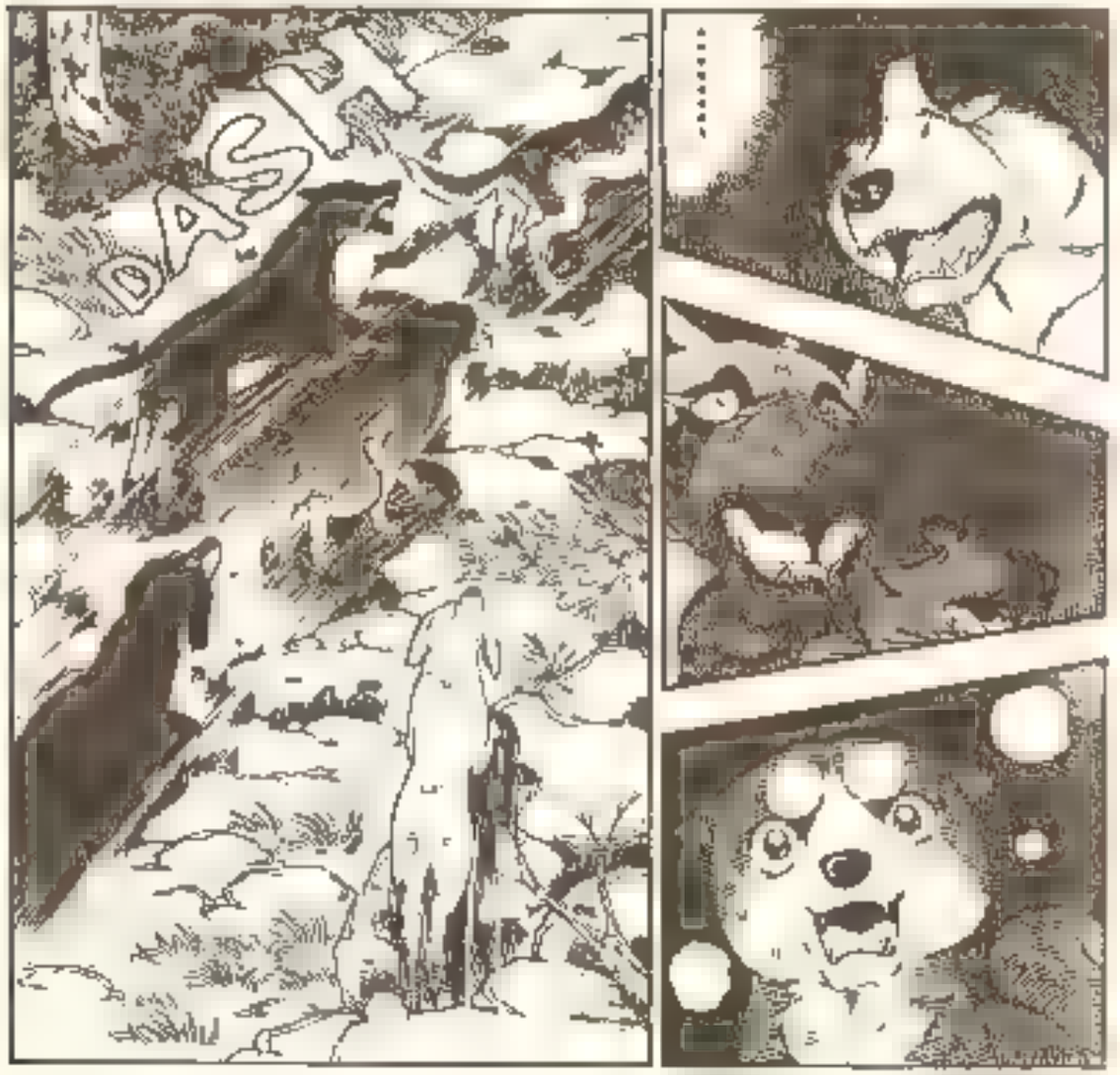
AND THIS KID IS GOING TO CHANGE EVERY-ONE'S FATE AS WELL..

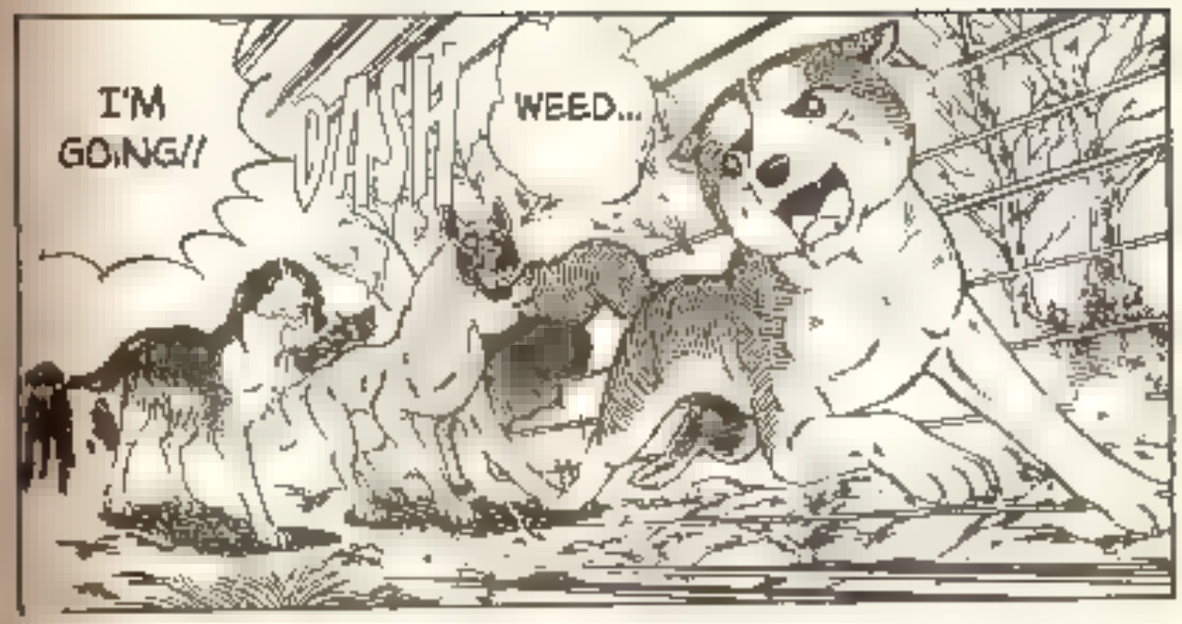
.....

DON'T YOU WANT US TO SHOW YOU WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A REAL DOG?

NOW, COME WITH US!


I GUESS THAT MEANS NO..
OH WELL...


DASH
.....


I'M GOING!!
DASH
WEED...

LET'S GO!!

OH, GIN... HE REALLY IS YOUR SON...
AND NOW, HIS POTENTIAL IS ABOUT TO BE REVEALED..

WHAT A KID...
DOES HE KNOW HOW TO BE AFRAID?!

LET'S GO! LET'S FOLLOW THEM!!

YEAH!!

DON'T BE LATE!!

SNOW...

IT STARTED TO SNOW, AND THE WIND, WHICH IS PECULIAR TO THIS CANYON, ALSO STARTED TO BLOW FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE MOUNTAIN TO THE TOP.

AND THE COLD WIND HELPED THEM TO GATHER THEIR COURAGE THAT WAS ALMOST DAUNTED AT ONE POINT.

SSSWWWOOOOOO

HEY JEROME, THEY'RE FOLLOWING US!!

WOW, THEY'RE

HEEH-HEEH...

I KNEW IT...

WEED WAS IN THE VAN-GUARD...

DOWN

AND THEY COULD HEAR A SOUND OF A AWAKENED BEAR HOUND IN WEED'S GROWL.

DON'T LET THEM GO IN FRONT OF US!

YAMA-NASHI PRE-FEC-TURE

ACK!!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DEAR?

NOTHING... I GUESS I WAS DREAMING...

YOU WERE?

YES... A NIGHTMARE.

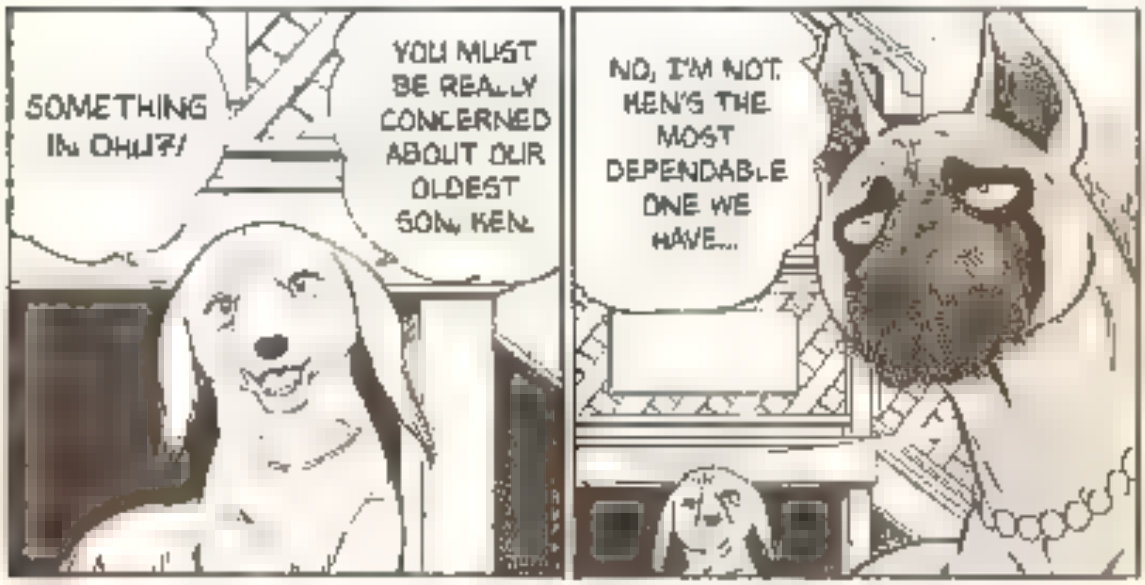
I CAN TELL...

IT'S UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO HAVE BAD DREAMS..

WHAT WAS IT ABOUT ?

OHJ....

SOMETHING CAME UP IN OHW!!


SOMETHING IN CHILI?!
YOU MUST BE REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT OUR OLDEST SON, KEN.
NO, I'M NOT. KEN'S THE MOST DEPENDABLE ONE WE HAVE...

THE 10TH STORY
PROOF OF A SOLDIER

THE 5 ELITE DOGS, TRAINED BY HUMANS KEPT RUNNING AHEAD

AS IF THEY WERE LEADING WEED TO GAIYO.

WHOOOW

THEY'RE SO FAST!!

ZOOM

DASH

ZOOM

JEROME... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT KID.

HE'S TAGGING ALONG WITH US SO EASILY.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME...

ONLY TRUE SOLDIERS CAN CLEAR THIS FIRST HURDLE!

DASH

LET'S GO!!

YAAA!

WOOSH

!?

OH, WAIT!!

HEY YOU GUYS! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S AHEAD OF US?!

THERE'S NOTHING BUT A STEEP CLIFF!!

.....

THERE!!

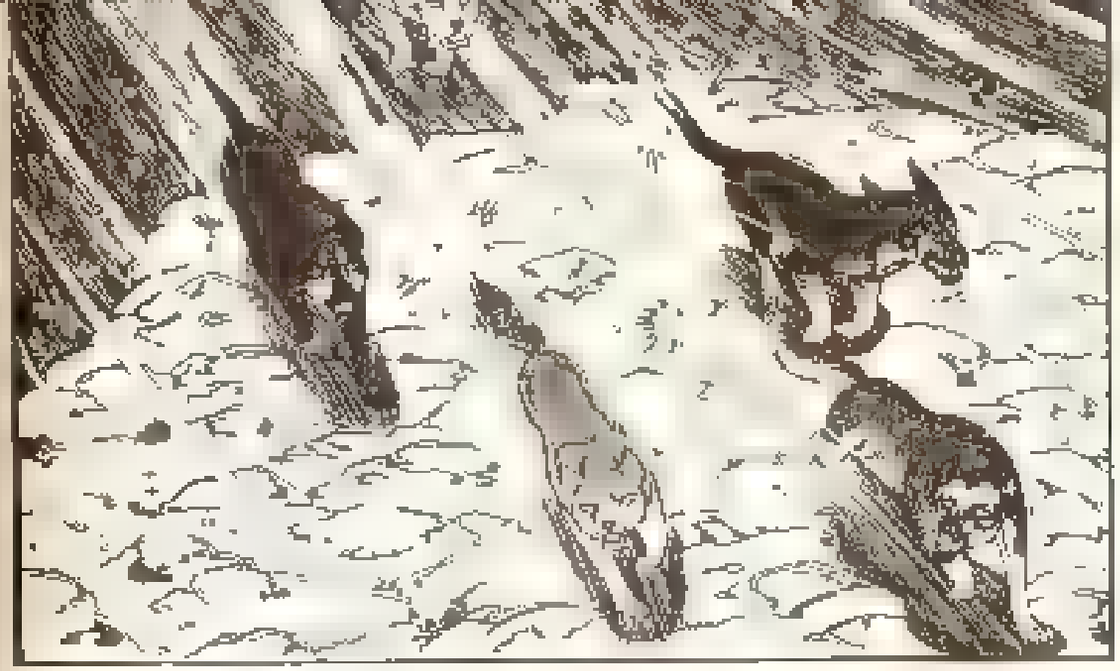
THEY JUMPED OVER THE CLIFF WITHOUT HESITATION

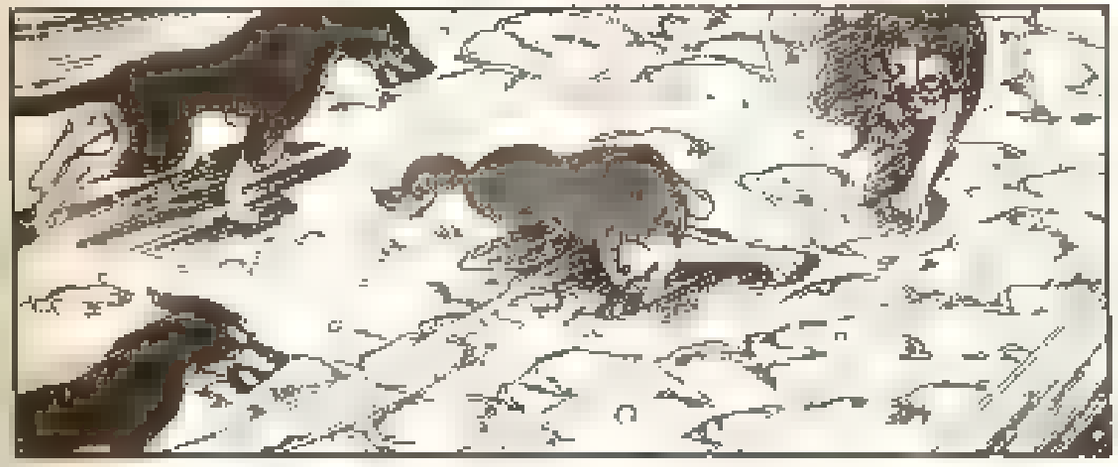
ARDOOOOO

IN PAST TIMES, SOLDIERS OF OHJ USED THIS CLIFF

AS A RITE OF PASSAGE FOR BECOMING A TRUE SOLDIER.

OOOOOOH





SHHHOOO

COME, WEED. YOU'RE THE SON OF GIN, RIGHT?

I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!!

SHHHOOO

TO WEED, THIS CLIFF

WWOOO

I'M NOT A QUITTER //

PASH!

NO... WEED//

YOU'RE STILL TOO YOUNG//

NO WAY...

IT'S IMPOSSI-BLE//

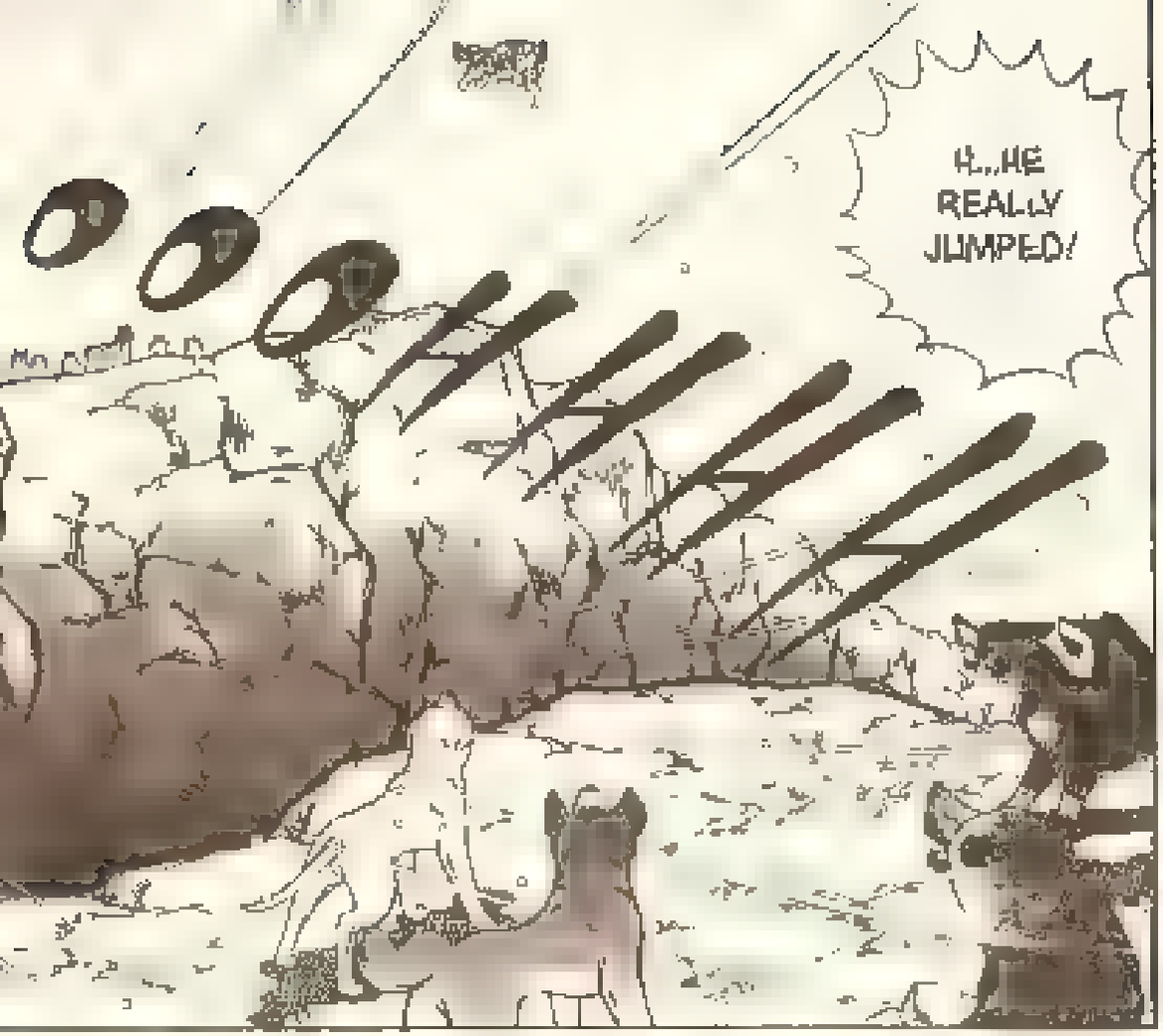
WEED// STOP!

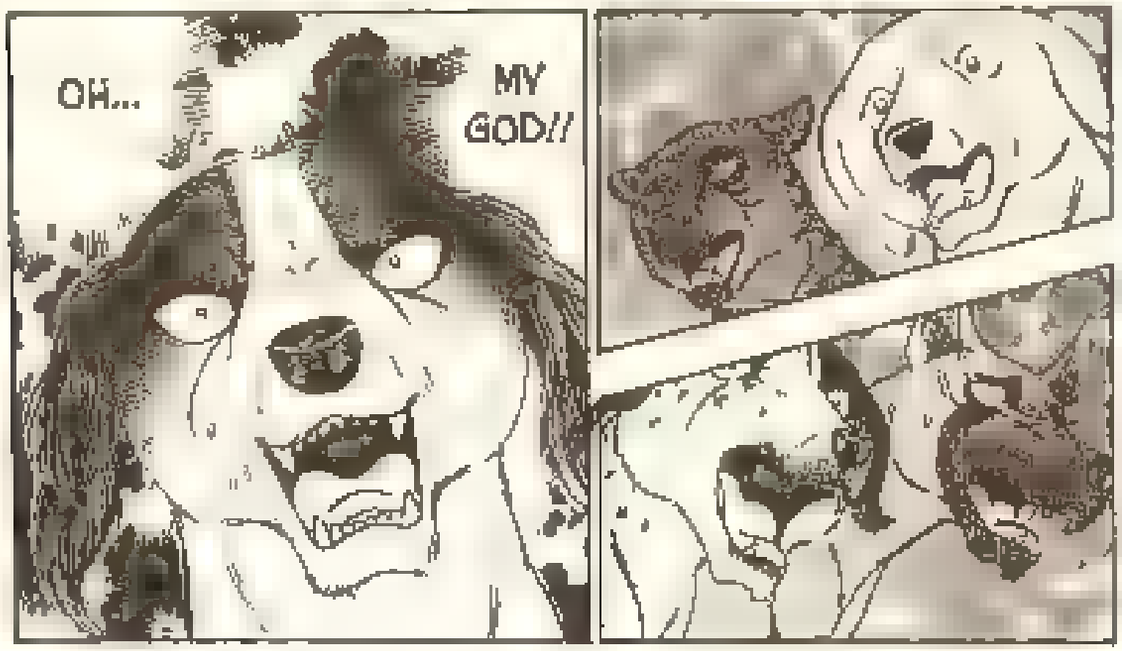
THAT KID IS INSANE... HE'S REALLY COMING!

JUMP! JUMP AS HIGH AS YOU CAN TO PROVE YOURSELF //

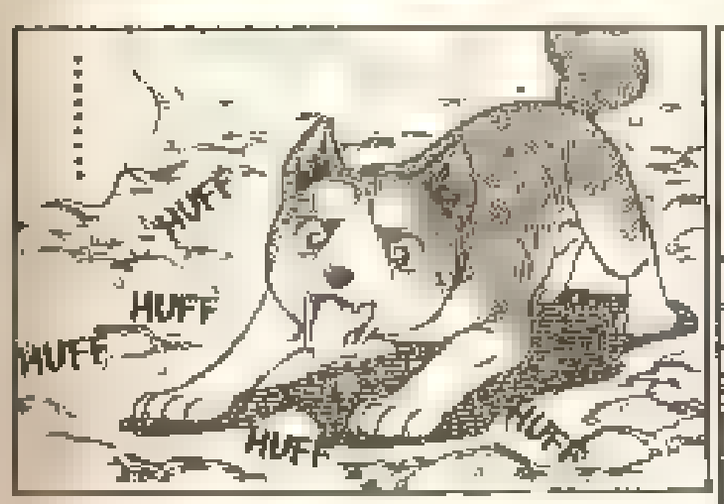
EVERYTHING HAPPENED IN A SPLIT SECOND. THE BEAR HOUND IN WEED TREMBLED WITH EXCITEMENT, AND HE BECAME UNSTOPPABLE.

WEED JUMPED LIKE A SILVER ARROW.

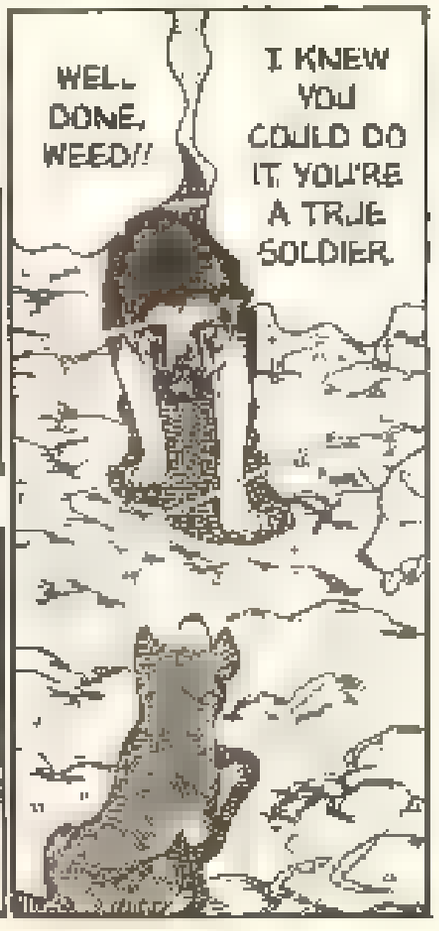

H...HE
REALLY
JUMPED!


OH...
MY
GOD!!

THUD!


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

I DON'T
BELIEVE
THIS...
THIS KID'S WAY
BETTER
THAN I AM
WHEN IT
COMES TO
SPRINGING.


WELL
DONE,
WEED!!
I KNEW
YOU
COULD DO
IT. YOU'RE
A TRUE
SOLDIER.

SMITH SAW GIN IN WEED...

WOOO

WHA...

UMMM ...

YOU COWARDS!! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?!

ACT LIKE REAL DOGS IF YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE SOLDIERS OF OHU!!

KEN?! KAGE-TORA?!

CLINK!

!!

ACK!!

YOU INCORRIGIBLE LOSERS!...

IS THAT IT?!

IS THAT THE MONSTER?!

HE'S LOOKING AT US....

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE JEROME?

BUT IT'S TOO LATE... I HAVE NO MERCY FOR YOU!!

PROOF OF A SOLDIER / END